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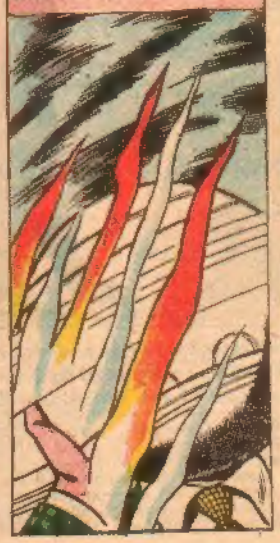
Printed in U.S.A.

IT WAS BY MY INVITATION (I'M PROFESSOR BILL SMATHERS IN THE ASTRONOMY DEPARTMENT) THAT MY KOREAN VETERAN BUDDIES MET IN A REUNION AT CALDER COLLEGE...
LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND THE CAMPUS BEFORE WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!

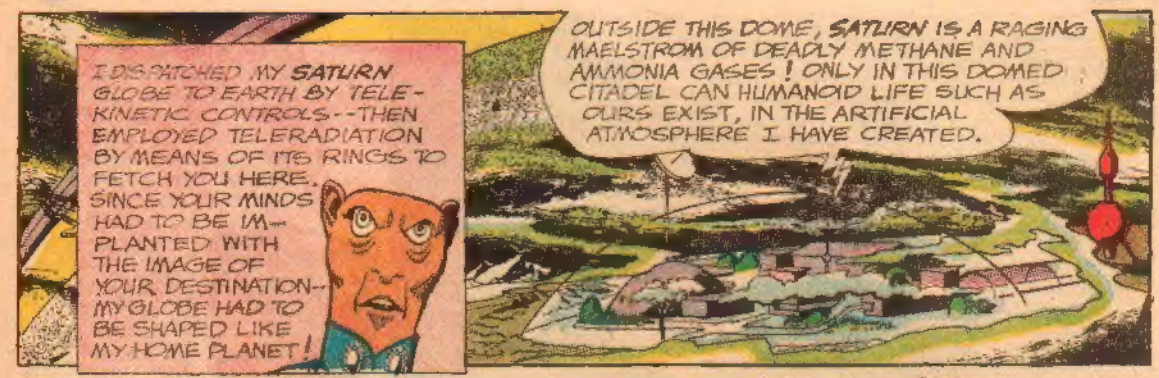
THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO WARNING OF DANGER IN THE AIR--UNTIL...
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? I--I CAN'T SEE!
THERE'S A QUEER SHIMMERING AROUND YOUR HEAD, BILL!

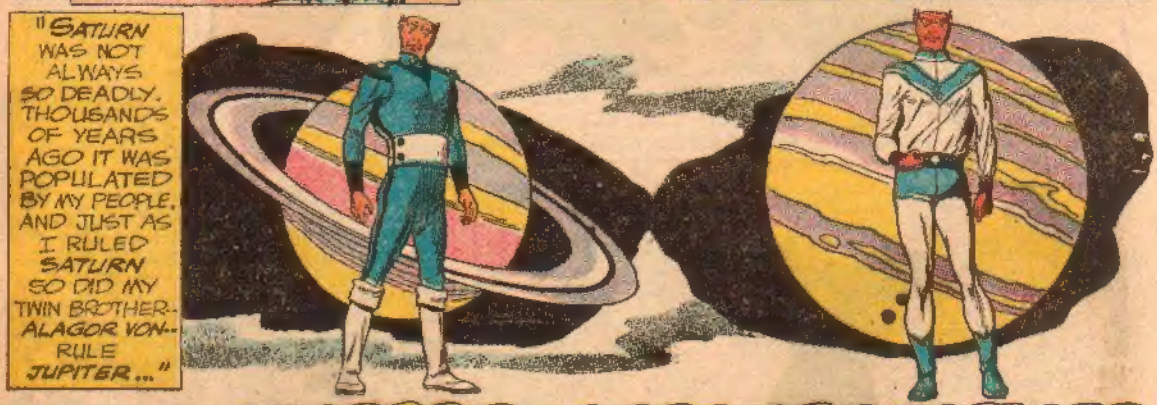
THOUGH I COULD NOT SEE, I COULD HEAR WHAT WAS HAPPENING...
GOOD GOSH! IT MATERIALIZED INTO A GLOBE OF THE PLANET SATURN!
WHERE'D IT COME FROM?
PULL IT OFF, BILL!

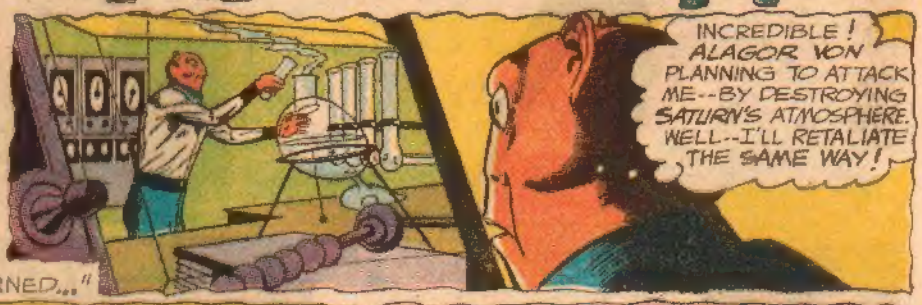
AS I WRESTLED WITH THE SATURN HEAD, STARTLED CRIES MADE ME AWARE OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS AROUND ME...
RADIATION--SHOOTING OUT FROM SATURN'S RINGS--
WHOEVER IT HITS, IS BLASTED OUT OF EXISTENCE!
UNLESS I GET THIS SATURN HEAD OFF--I MAY DOOM EVERYONE ON EARTH!

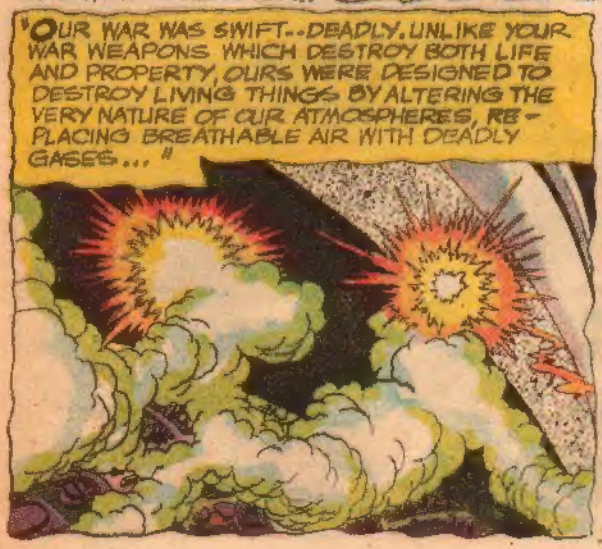

THEN THERE WAS A MOMENT OF WILD WINDS WHIPPING MY CLOTHES--WHEN I ALTERNATELY FROZE AND BAKED--AS I SWUNG LIKE A DUST MOTE IN A GALE...

THE NEXT THING I KNEW THE GLOBE WAS BEING LIFTED OFF. AND I FOUND MYSELF GAPING IN STUNNED ASTONISHMENT AT A STRANGE AND ALIEN BEING...
WELCOME TO THE PLANET SATURN! IT WAS I--KANDARE OHL--WHO BROUGHT YOU AND YOUR FELLOW-WARRIORS HERE TO HELP ME FIGHT THE LONGEST WAR IN HISTORY!

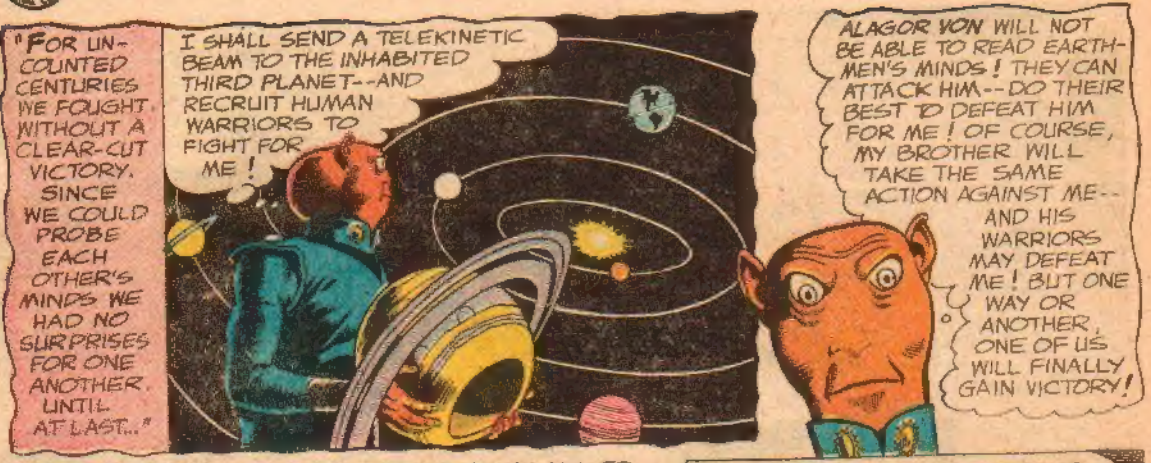

I DISPATCHED MY SATURN GLOBE TO EARTH BY TELE-KINETIC CONTROLS--THEN EMPLOYED TELERADIATION BY MEANS OF ITS RINGS TO FETCH YOU HERE. SINCE YOUR MINDS HAD TO BE IM-PLANTED WITH THE IMAGE OF YOUR DESTINATION--MY GLOBE HAD TO BE SHAPED LIKE MY HOME PLANET!
OUTSIDE THIS DOME, SATURN IS A RAGING MAELSTROM OF DEADLY METHANE AND AMMONIA GASES! ONLY IN THIS DOMED CITADEL CAN HUMANOID LIFE SUCH AS OURS EXIST, IN THE ARTIFICIAL ATMOSPHERE I HAVE CREATED.

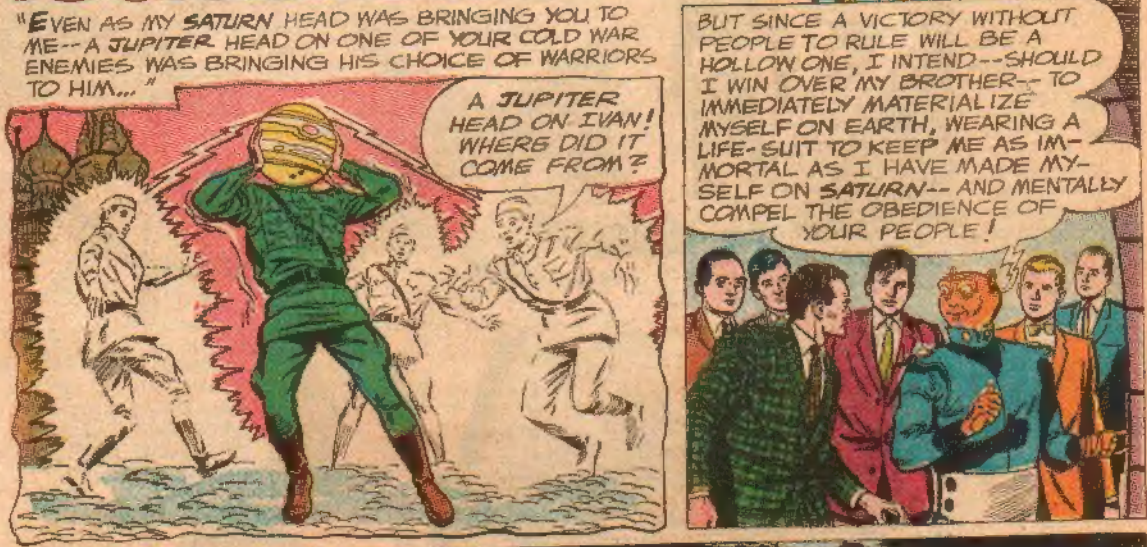

"SATURN WAS NOT ALWAYS SO DEADLY. THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO IT WAS POPULATED BY MY PEOPLE, AND JUST AS I RULED SATURN SO DID MY TWIN BROTHER--ALAGOR VON--RULE JUPITER..."

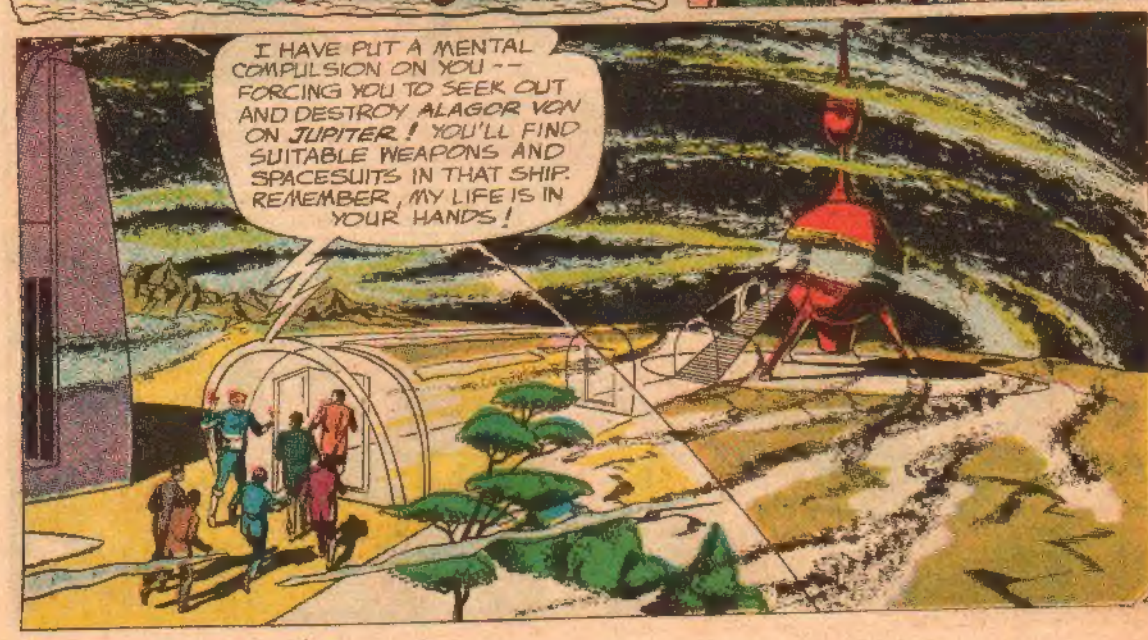

"MY BROTHER AND I WERE SO ALIKE THAT NEITHER OF US COULD CONCEAL HIS INNERMOST THOUGHTS FROM THE OTHER EVEN ACROSS THE HALF BILLION MILES FROM HERE TO JUPITER, SO IT WAS THAT I LEARNED..."
INCREDIBLE! ALAGOR VON PLANNING TO ATTACK ME--BY DESTROYING SATURN'S ATMOSPHERE. WELL--I'LL RETALIATE THE SAME WAY!

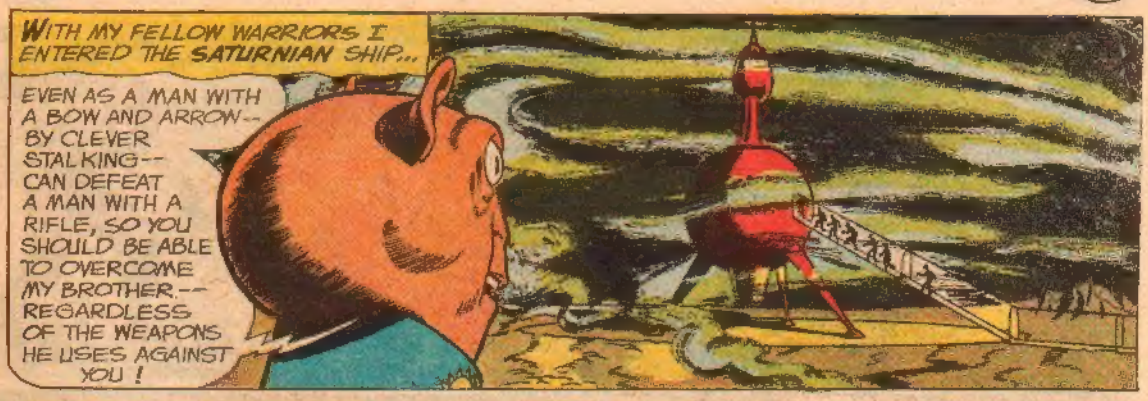

"OUR WAR WAS SWIFT--DEADLY. UNLIKE YOUR WAR WEAPONS WHICH DESTROY BOTH LIFE AND PROPERTY, OURS WERE DESIGNED TO DESTROY LIVING THINGS BY ALTERING THE VERY NATURE OF OUR ATMOSPHERES, RE-PLACING BREATHABLE AIR WITH DEADLY GASES..."

"UNTIL ONLY ALAGOR VON AND I WERE LEFT, EACH IN OUR INVULNERABLE DOMED STRONGHOLDS AND STILL FIGHTING..."
I'LL BATTLE HIM WITH SATURNIAN WARSHIPS--BY REMOTE CONTROLS WHICH I HAD INSTALLED BEFORE THE LAST OF MY PEOPLE DIED!

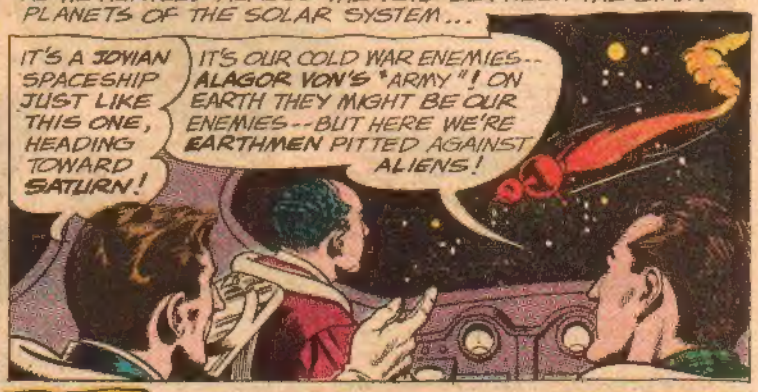

"FOR UNCOUNTED CENTURIES WE FOUGHT, WITHOUT A CLEAR-CUT VICTORY. SINCE WE COULD PROBE EACH OTHER'S MINDS WE HAD NO SURPRISES FOR ONE ANOTHER, UNTIL AT LAST..."
I SHALL SEND A TELEKINETIC BEAM TO THE INHABITED THIRD PLANET--AND RECRUIT HUMAN WARRIORS TO FIGHT FOR ME!
ALAGOR VON WILL NOT BE ABLE TO READ EARTHMEN'S MINDS! THEY CAN ATTACK HIM--DO THEIR BEST TO DEFEAT HIM FOR ME! OF COURSE, MY BROTHER WILL TAKE THE SAME ACTION AGAINST ME--AND HIS WARRIORS MAY DEFEAT ME! BUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, ONE OF US WILL FINALLY GAIN VICTORY!


"EVEN AS MY SATURN HEAD WAS BRINGING YOU TO ME--A JUPITER HEAD ON ONE OF YOUR COLD WAR ENEMIES WAS BRINGING HIS CHOICE OF WARRIORS TO HIM..."
A JUPITER HEAD ON IVAN! WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
BUT SINCE A VICTORY WITHOUT PEOPLE TO RULE WILL BE A HOLLOW ONE, I INTEND--SHOULD I WIN OVER MY BROTHER--TO IMMEDIATELY MATERIALIZE MYSELF ON EARTH, WEARING A LIFE-SUIT TO KEEP ME AS IMMORTAL AS I HAVE MADE MYSELF ON SATURN--AND MENTALLY COMPEL THE OBEDIENCE OF YOUR PEOPLE!


I HAVE PUT A MENTAL COMPULSION ON YOU--FORCING YOU TO SEEK OUT AND DESTROY ALAGOR VON ON JUPITER! YOU'LL FIND SUITABLE WEAPONS AND SPACESUITS IN THAT SHIP. REMEMBER, MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS!

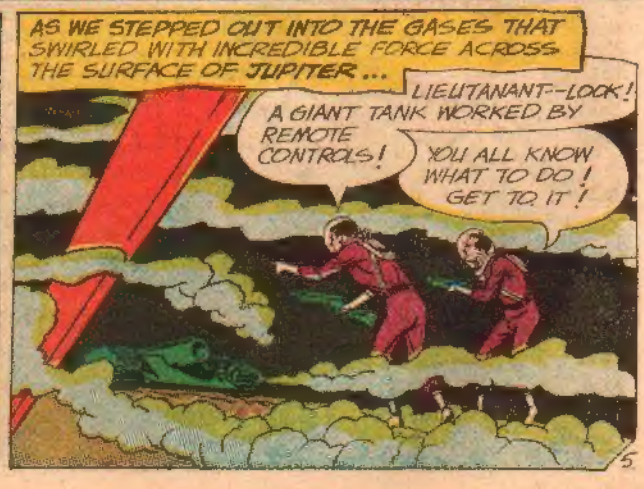

WITH MY FELLOW WARRIORS I ENTERED THE SATURNIAN SHIP...
EVEN AS A MAN WITH A BOW AND ARROW--BY CLEVER STALKING--CAN DEFEAT A MAN WITH A RIFLE, SO YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME MY BROTHER.--REGARDLESS OF THE WEAPONS HE USES AGAINST YOU!

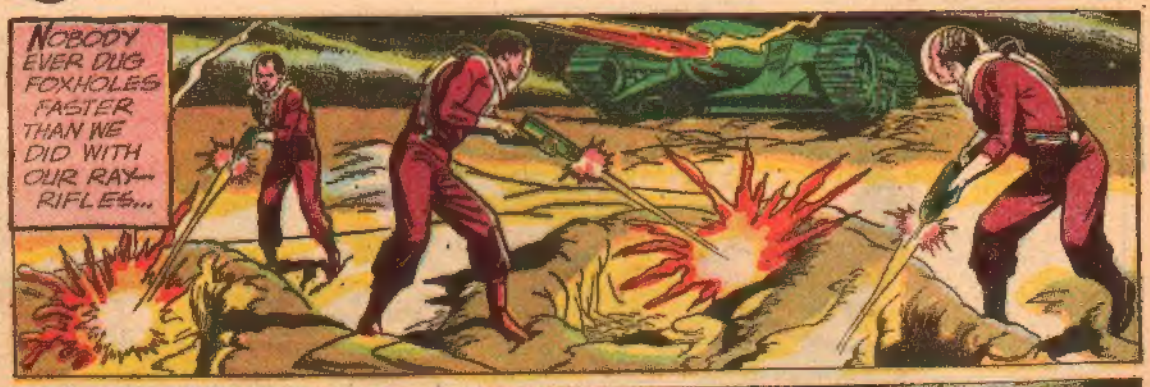
MINUTES LATER THE GREAT WARSHIP LIFTED UPWARD THROUGH THE METHANE AND AMMONIA CLOUDS...
BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO US--EVEN IF WE WIN? KANDARE CHL SAID NOTHING ABOUT HOW WE'LL GET BACK TO EARTH!


AS WE HURTLED ACROSS THE VOID BETWEEN THE GIANT PLANETS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM...
IT'S A JOVIAN SPACESHIP JUST LIKE THIS ONE, HEADING TOWARD SATURN!
IT'S OUR COLD WAR ENEMIES--ALAGOR VON'S "ARMY"! ON EARTH THEY MIGHT BE OUR ENEMIES--BUT HERE WE'RE EARTHMEN PITTED AGAINST ALIENS!

I HAD AN IDEA! QUICKLY I LEAPED TO THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM...
YES, IT CAN DO WHAT I WANT--WHICH IS TO SEND A MORSE CODE MESSAGE TO OUR RIVAL ARMY--INFORMING THEM OF MY PLAN!

FOR I HAD WORKED OUT A PLAN--A WILD, CRAZY SCHEME THAT JUST MIGHT WORK IN THIS WILD, CRAZY ADVENTURE! AS WE LOWERED TOWARD JUPITER I TALKED IT OVER WITH MY BUDDIES...

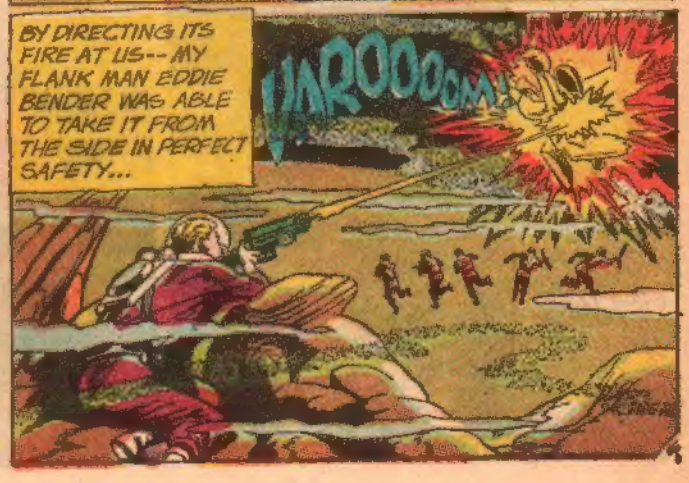

AS WE STEPPED OUT INTO THE GASES THAT SWIRLED WITH INCREDIBLE FORCE ACROSS THE SURFACE OF JUPITER...
LIEUTANANT--LOOK! A GIANT TANK WORKED BY REMOTE CONTROLS!
YOU ALL KNOW WHAT TO DO! GET TO IT!

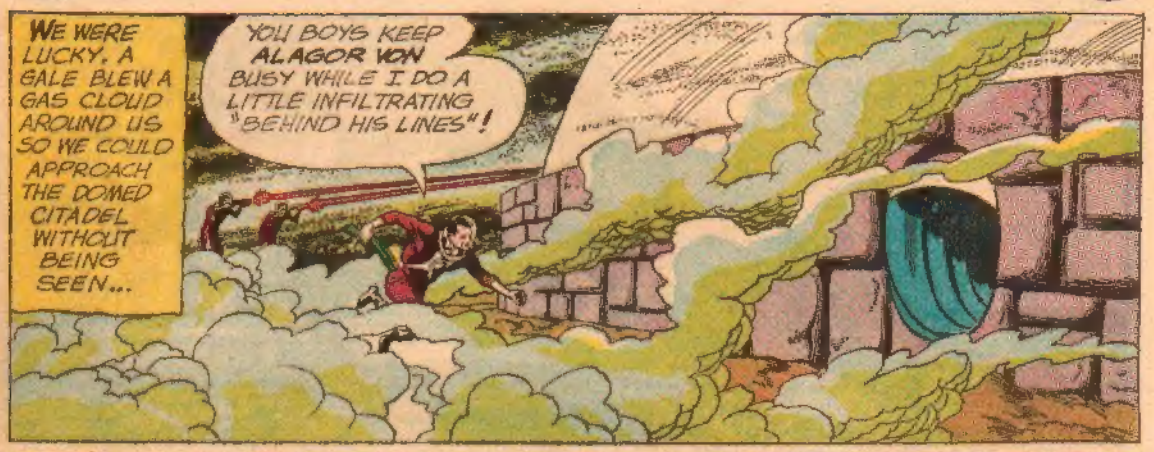

NOBODY EVER DUG FOXHOLES FASTER THAN WE DID WITH OUR RAY-RIFLES...

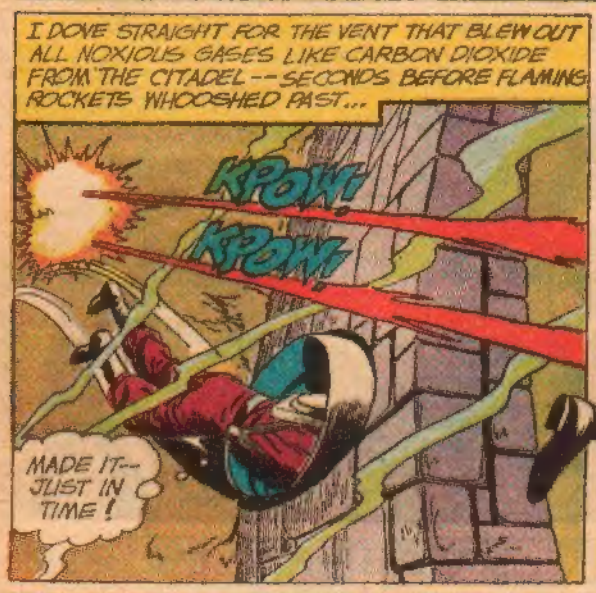
UNABLE TO "SEE" US, THE TANK CLANKED TO A HALT--AND WAS A SITTING DUCK FOR HALF A DOZEN RAY-BLASTS...

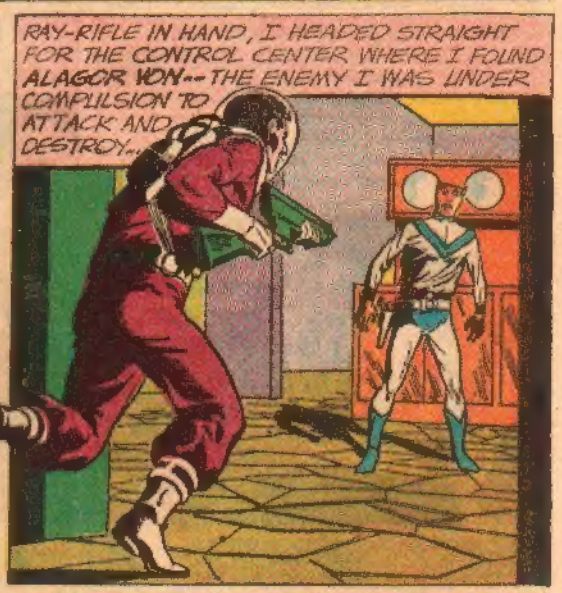
WE MOVED ON--ONLY TO BE CONFRONTED BY A MORE DEADLY WEAPON ABOVE OUR HEADS...
A FLYING GUN! FOXHOLES WON'T HELP HERE!

I YELLED FOR A TRICK WE'D WORKED PLENTY OF TIMES IN KOREA--AND LED THE ZIGZAG RETREAT MYSELF...
OUR ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE OURSELVES FROM THAT FLYING CANNON--IS TO KEEP IT SHOOTING AT US!

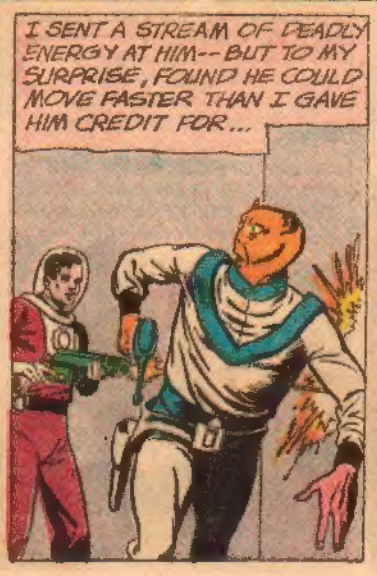

BY DIRECTING ITS FIRE AT US--MY FLANK MAN EDDIE BENDER WAS ABLE TO TAKE IT FROM THE SIDE IN PERFECT SAFETY...
VAROOOOM!


WE WERE LUCKY. A GALE BLEW A GAS CLOUD AROUND US SO WE COULD APPROACH THE DOMED CITADEL WITHOUT BEING SEEN...
YOU BOYS KEEP ALAGOR VON BUSY WHILE I DO A LITTLE INFILTRATING "BEHIND HIS LINES"!

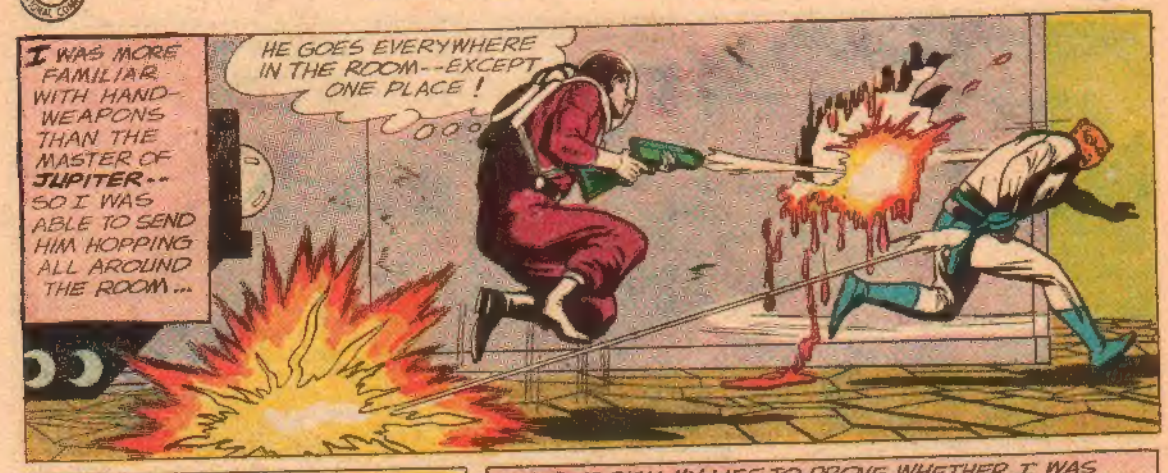

I DOVE STRAIGHT FOR THE VENT THAT BLEW OUT ALL NOXIOUS GASES LIKE CARBON DIOXIDE FROM THE CITADEL--SECONDS BEFORE FLAMING ROCKETS WHOOSHED PAST...
KPOW!
KPOW!
MADE IT--JUST IN TIME!


RAY-RIFLE IN HAND, I HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE CONTROL CENTER WHERE I FOUND ALAGOR VON--THE ENEMY I WAS UNDER COMPULSION TO ATTACK AND DESTROY...

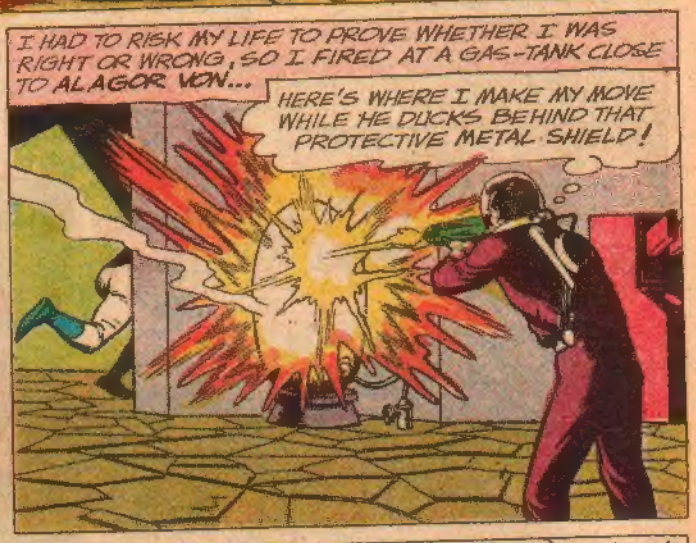
BEFORE I COULD TRIGGER MY BLASTER, ALAGOR VON DARTED SIDEWAYS...
AS LONG AS I KEEP HIM IN MY SIGHTS, HE WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME!


I SENT A STREAM OF DEADLY ENERGY AT HIM--BUT TO MY SURPRISE, FOUND HE COULD MOVE FASTER THAN I GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR...

A SECOND LATER IT WAS MY TURN TO DART AWAY...
WHOOOSH!


I WAS MORE FAMILIAR WITH HAND-WEAPONS THAN THE MASTER OF JUPITER-- SO I WAS ABLE TO SEND HIM HOPPING ALL AROUND THE ROOM...
HE GOES EVERYWHERE IN THE ROOM--EXCEPT ONE PLACE!

SWEAT WAS RUNNING DOWN MY FACE. I WAS FIGHTING NOT ONLY TO STOP ALAGOR VON BUT TO SAVE THE LIVES OF MY MEN AND MYSELF AS WELL...
EVEN IF WE DESTROY ALAGOR VON--WE'LL BE MAROONED HERE ON JUPITER UNLESS MY PLAN TO GET US BACK TO EARTH WORKS!


I HAD TO RISK MY LIFE TO PROVE WHETHER I WAS RIGHT OR WRONG, SO I FIRED AT A GAS-TANK CLOSE TO ALAGOR VON...
HERE'S WHERE I MAKE MY MOVE WHILE HE DUCKS BEHIND THAT PROTECTIVE METAL SHIELD!

I WHIRLED AND YANKED OPEN A CABINET DOOR...
ALAGOR VON WAS CAREFUL NEVER TO STAY IN FRONT OF THIS CABINET WHILE I WAS SHOOTING AT HIM! HE AVOIDED IT SO DELIBERATELY I'M CERTAIN THAT WHAT I'M AFTER IS HIDDEN IN HERE!

SURE ENOUGH IT WAS THERE-- A GLOBE OF EARTH--WHICH I SLIPPED ONTO MY HEAD AND TURNED...
WHEN KANDARE OHL SAID HE WOULD "IMMEDIATELY MATERIALIZE ON EARTH", I REALIZED HE WOULDN'T GO BY SPACESHIP! THE ONLY OTHER WAY HE COULD GO WAS BY TELEKENIGIS*-- VIA AN EARTH HEAD!
*Editor's Note: TELEPORTATION VIA KINETIC ENERGY.

SINCE EACH TWIN KNEW WHAT THE OTHER THOUGHT AND DID, I BANKED ON THE FACT THAT THIS WAS ALSO THE WAY ALAGOR VON WOULD GO TO EARTH IN CASE HE WON THE FIGHT!
NO! NO! DON'T SEND ME TO EARTH! WITHOUT MY LIFE-SUIT WHICH KEEPS ME IMMORTAL THE WAY MY DOMED CITADEL DOES--I'M DOOMED!

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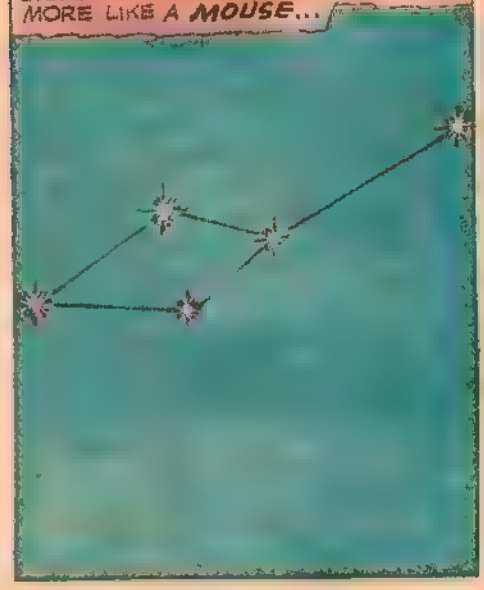
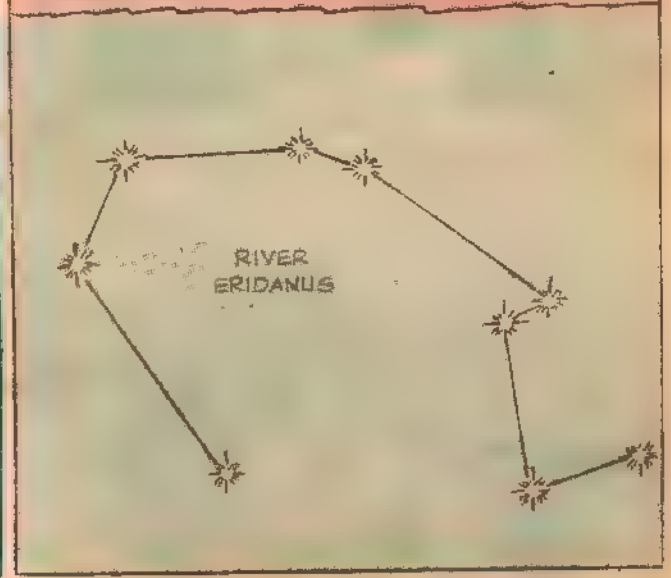
ALTHOUGH A SMALL CONSTELLATION WAS DUBBED ***LEO MINOR*** BECAUSE OF ITS FANCIED RESEMBLANCE TO A ***SMALL LION,*** THE STARRY COMBINATION LOOKS MORE LIKE A ***MOUSE***...



BECAUSE THE STARS OF AN EXTENSIVE CONSTELLATION IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE MEANDER ACROSS THE SKY LIKE A RIVER, THE GREEKS CALLED IT ***ERIDANUS*** AFTER A RIVER OF THAT NAME (*THE MODERN DAY* ***PO*** *RIVER*)..



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Dear Editor: All right! Where is it?

I've strained my poor little eyeballs until they almost came out of their sockets! . . . and I can't find it anywhere! You know what I'm talking about . . . that well-known habit of the one and only . . . Murphy Anderson! Namely his concealed signature! Please tell me where he sneaked it into "The Martian Emperor of Earth" (May *Strange Adventures*) —or I'll go mad!

Gregory Suriano, 671 Highland Ave., Newark, N.J.

(Our readers evidently enjoy looking for Murphy Anderson's sneaky signature as much as they do his stories. Sometimes they fail utterly to find it . or think they find it where it isn't at all—as witness the next letter.—*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: I found it! Murphy Anderson's signature for his illustrated "Martian Emperor of Earth" is on page 2, panel 3. It is written cleverly in the waves that are hitting the bathyscaphe!

Tom Danehy, 13030 Carl St., Pacoima, Cal.

(You're all at sea if you see Anderson's signature in the waves! Curious readers will have to move on to the next letter to clear up the mystery.—*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: The May issue of *Strange Adventures* was the greatest ever. Artwork, writing, even the print, showed that here is the greatest science fiction comic book in the world today.

Gardner Fox and John Broome are definitely the most sensational writers of science-fiction of the modern age, except perhaps for Ray Bradbury, Clifford D. Simak and Andre Norton.

"The Martian Emperor of Earth": There WAS a story, of the classic s-f type. Story—Mars invading Earth. What made this particular tale *unique* was that only one Martian made the invasion, and that he changed all the Earth people into replicas of himself. One person, naturally a young handsome scientist, survives this ray, and alone in a world of Martians, goes out and knocks the invader off, but in a clever way. The concept of the Martian moon *Deimos* as a "spaceship" was very clever. Murphy Anderson was exceptional in his pencils and inking. I'm still looking for his MA. . . .

EUREKA! Why the outburst? Look on page 5, panel 4, bottom right-hand corner. MA! The elusive signature!

"The Day the World Lost Its Atmosphere": The title is the only bad thing about this story (which is the best in the book); it's too long and doesn't have any fire in it. Other than that, it will go down in comic book history, a prophetic classic. The *Cybroid* is certainly a dramatic look at the future in many ways. And the *suspense* . . . CHEE! When I saw the *Cybroid* down the *NASA* man, I was sure it had been taken over by some evil alien intelligence. And was I wrong! As for its real shape, my guess is a perfect sphere, with telepathic powers. Sid Greene's artwork was better than usual, and that makes it . . . WOW!

I don't see why so many *Atomic Knights* fans blast at *Star Hawkins*. If the third story in this issue, "The Case of the Body-Switching Robot," is anything like the ones they have read, then they are nuts! This is certainly the best *Star Hawkins* story ever put out

Guy Lillian III, 1852 11 St., Riverside, Cal

(Your evaluation of Fox and Broome as among the top science-fiction writers of the day will be scoffed at by other readers, if not by Fox and Broome themselves who slant their stories at a comic book audience, while Bradbury and company aim their stuff at a "higher" level. But don't get us wrong: we're not belittling *Strange Adventures* in the least. Both youngsters and adults have complimented us on putting out the best science-fiction comic on the market—and who are we to argue otherwise?—*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: I greatly enjoyed your May issue despite the fact that the detestable *Star Hawkins* was present. And while I'm on the subject of *S.H.*, I was shocked at the statement that appeared in a recent SPOTLIGHT . . . that *Star Hawkins* is threatening to nose out the other series you run. *Star Hawkins* is *nowhere* when compared to the top-notch *Atomic Knights*

Now for the May issue: "The Martian Emperor of Earth" was not up to par (story-wise) but its excellent art made up for that. "The Day the World Lost Its Atmosphere" was terrific. But one thing puzzles me—did you make up that name *"Cybroid?"* It seems to me I've read something somewhere about a *"Cyborg"*—a human volunteer whose body has been changed to meet the hazards of space-travel. Finally, I've already given you my (low) opinion on *Star Hawkins*—and that goes for the story in this issue, too.

By the way, would you please round your letter column back to two pages?

Stephen Miller,

35 Townsbury Rd., Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.

(The real Cyborg our space-scientists are in the process of developing inspired Gardner Fox to coin his 'Cybroid" expression. Letter-column space depends on the amount of advertising per issue—when it's heavy, the column must be light.—*Editor*)

Address mail to SPOTLIGHT ON STRANGE ADVENTURES, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

The Atomic Knights

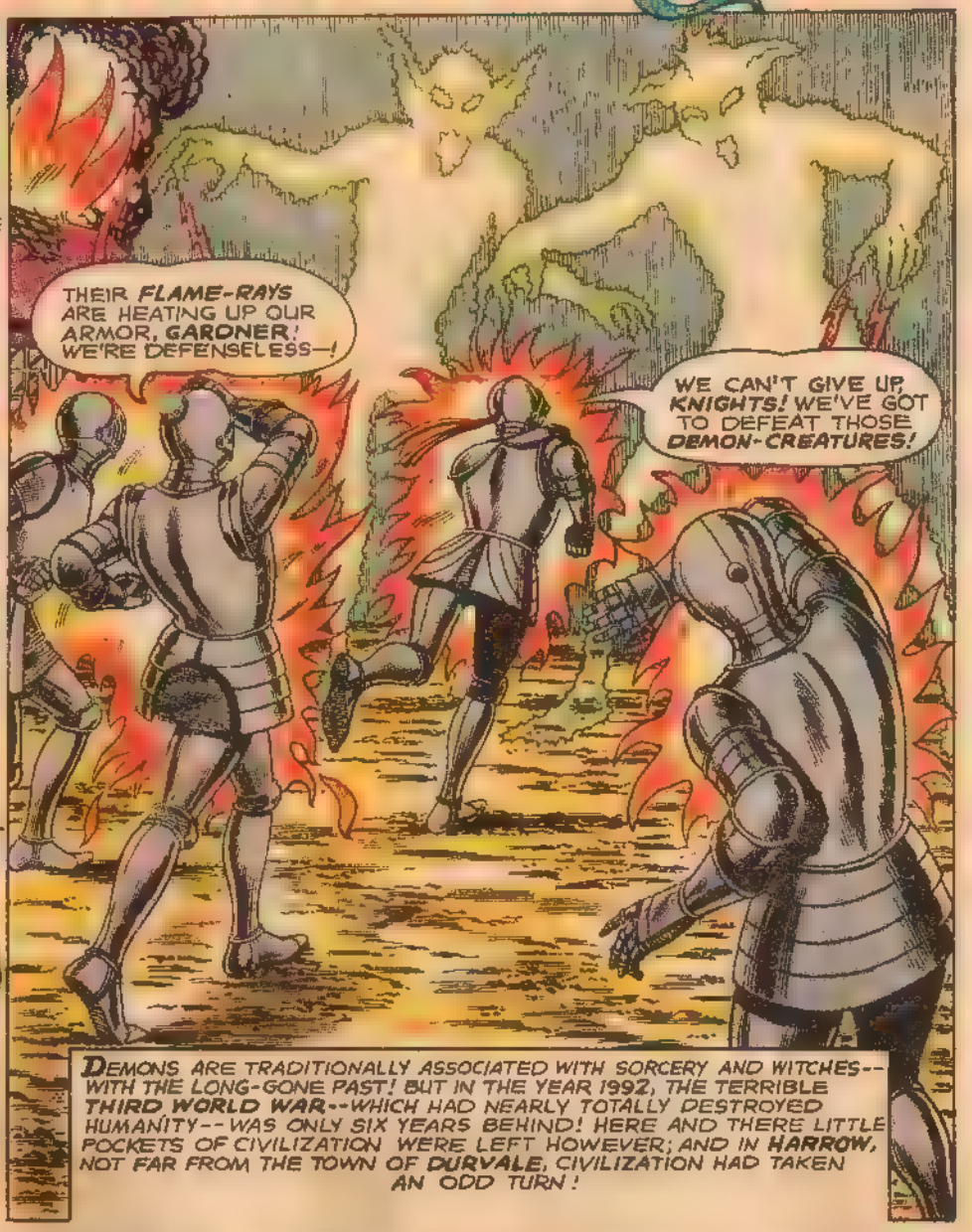
GARDNER GRAYLE-- LEADER OF THE **ATOMIC KNIGHTS**

DOUGLAS HERALD-- SCHOOLTEACHER

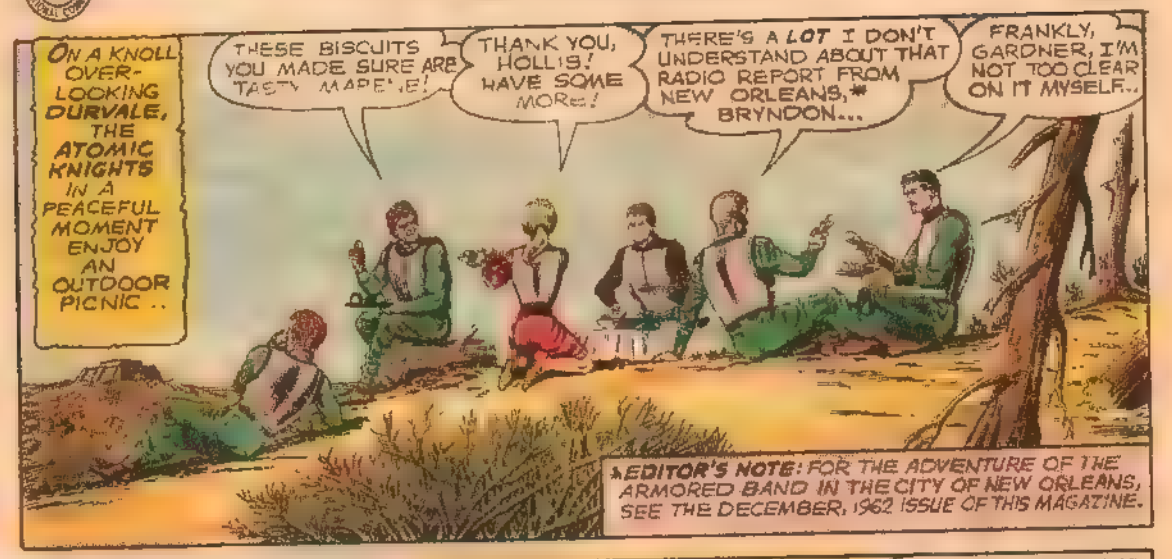
MARENE-- HERALD'S SISTER

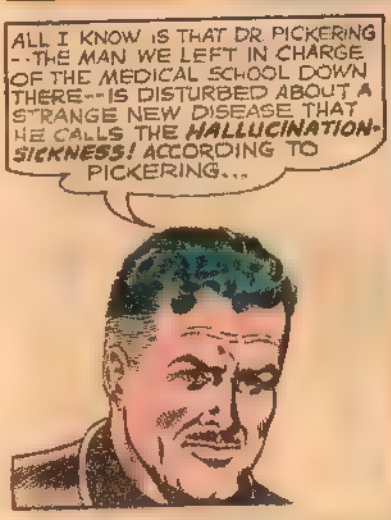
BRYNDON-- ONE OF THE LAST SCIENTISTS LEFT ALIVE ON EARTH

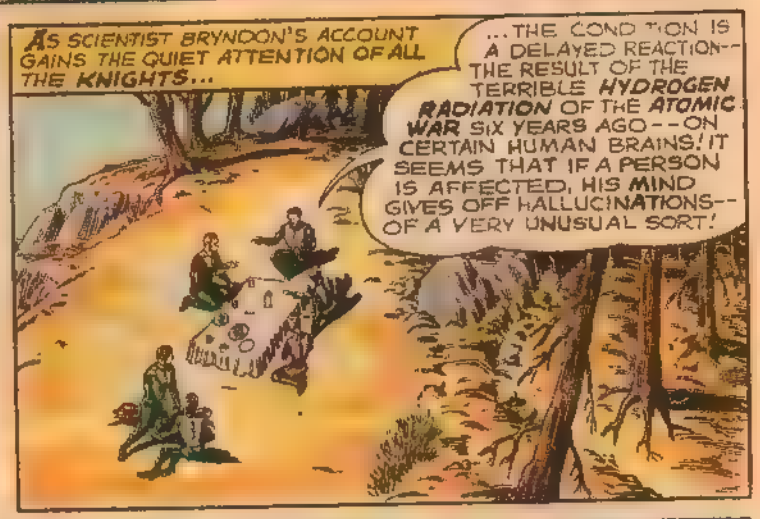
WAYNE + HOLLIS HOBARD-- BROTHERS, EX-SOLDIERS AND LOYAL **ATOMIC KNIGHTS**

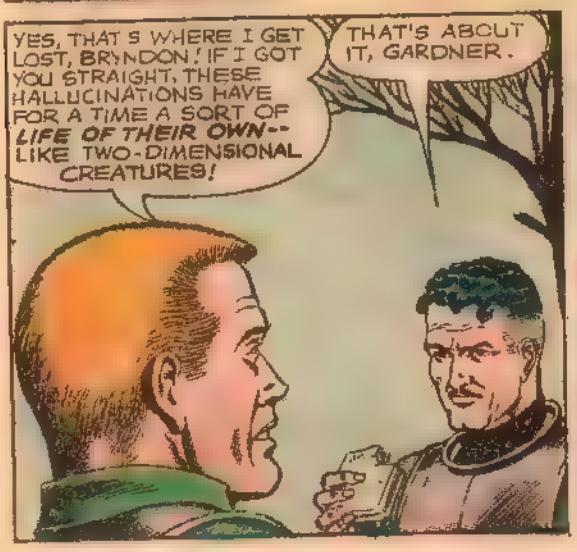


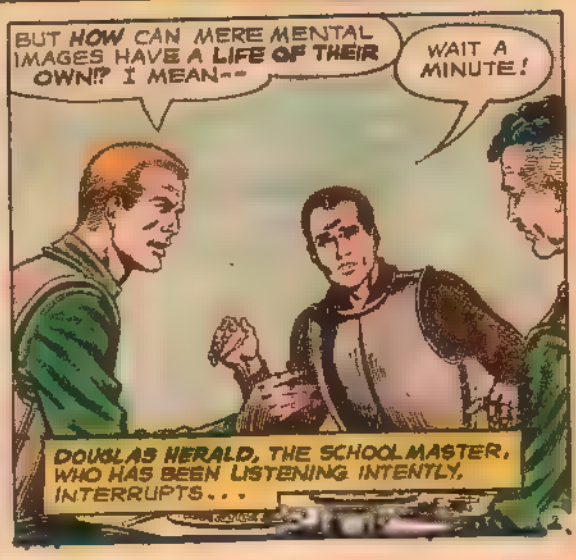
THREAT OF THE WITCH-WOMAN

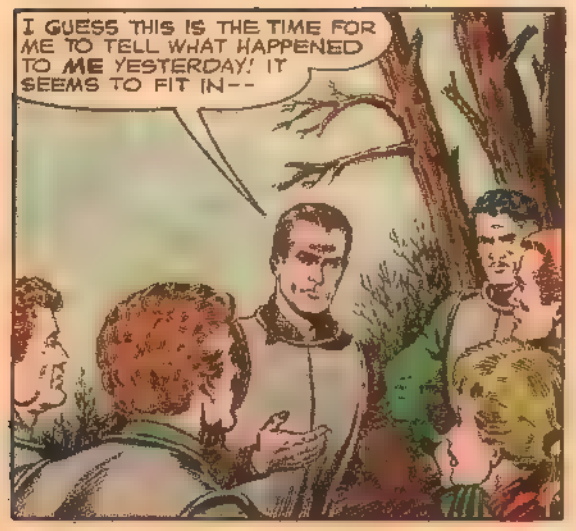

ON A KNOLL OVER-LOOKING DURVALE, THE ATOMIC KNIGHTS IN A PEACEFUL MOMENT ENJOY AN OUTDOOR PICNIC ..
THESE BISCUITS YOU MADE SURE ARE TASTY MARENE!
THANK YOU, HOLLIS! HAVE SOME MORE!
THERE'S A LOT I DON'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT THAT RADIO REPORT FROM NEW ORLEANS,* BRYNDON...
FRANKLY, GARDNER, I'M NOT TOO CLEAR ON IT MYSELF..
*EDITOR'S NOTE: FOR THE ADVENTURE OF THE ARMORED BAND IN THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, SEE THE DECEMBER, 1962 ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE.

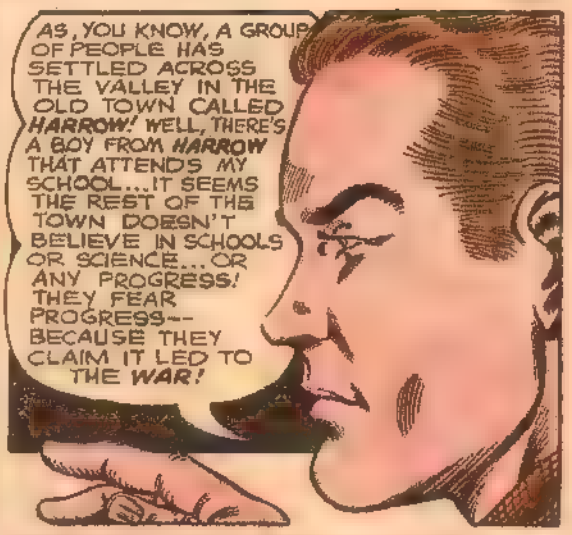

ALL I KNOW IS THAT DR. PICKERING --THE MAN WE LEFT IN CHARGE OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL DOWN THERE--IS DISTURBED ABOUT A STRANGE NEW DISEASE THAT HE CALLS THE HALLUCINATION-SICKNESS! ACCORDING TO PICKERING...


AS SCIENTIST BRYNDON'S ACCOUNT GAINS THE QUIET ATTENTION OF ALL THE KNIGHTS...
...THE CONDITION IS A DELAYED REACTION--THE RESULT OF THE TERRIBLE HYDROGEN RADIATION OF THE ATOMIC WAR SIX YEARS AGO--ON CERTAIN HUMAN BRAINS! IT SEEMS THAT IF A PERSON IS AFFECTED, HIS MIND GIVES OFF HALLUCINATIONS--OF A VERY UNUSUAL SORT!


YES, THAT'S WHERE I GET LOST, BRYNDON! IF I GOT YOU STRAIGHT, THESE HALLUCINATIONS HAVE FOR A TIME A SORT OF LIFE OF THEIR OWN--LIKE TWO-DIMENSIONAL CREATURES!
THAT'S ABOUT IT, GARDNER.


BUT HOW CAN MERE MENTAL IMAGES HAVE A LIFE OF THEIR OWN!? I MEAN--
WAIT A MINUTE!
DOUGLAS HERALD, THE SCHOOLMASTER, WHO HAS BEEN LISTENING INTENTLY, INTERRUPTS...

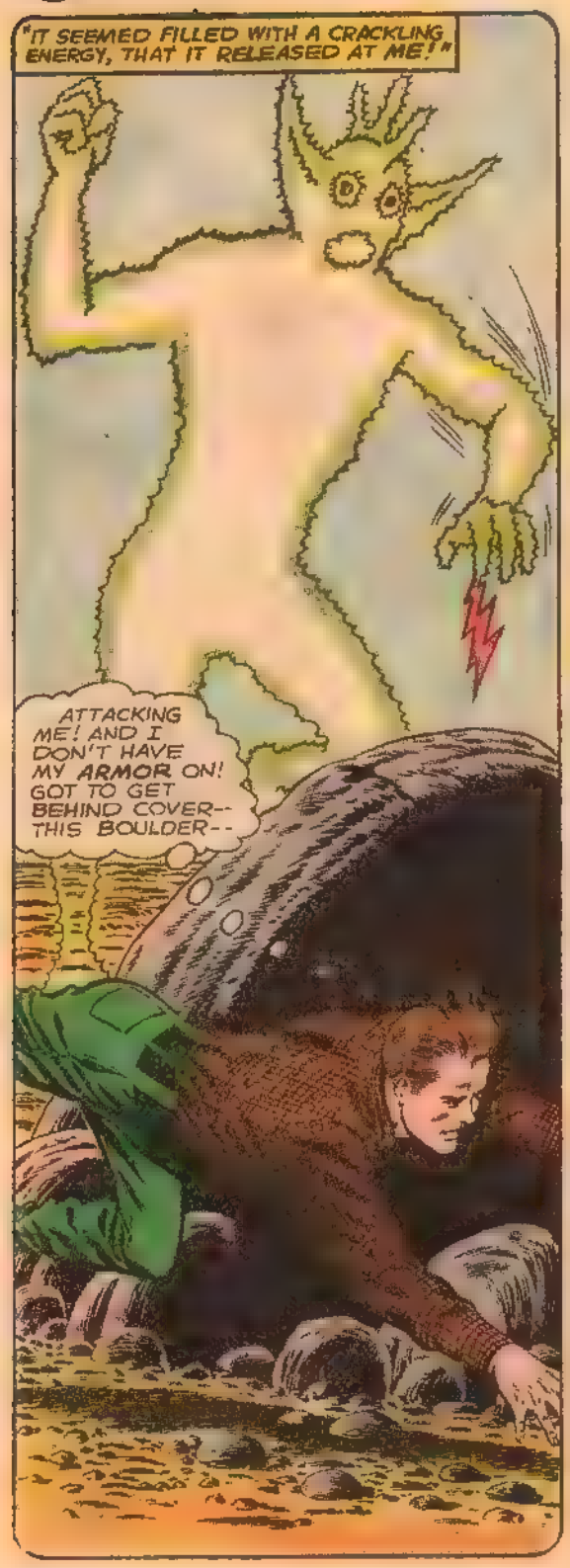

I GUESS THIS IS THE TIME FOR ME TO TELL WHAT HAPPENED TO ME YESTERDAY! IT SEEMS TO FIT IN--

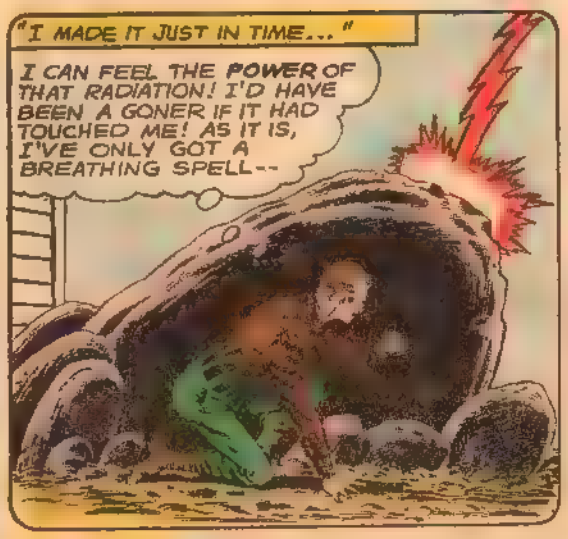

AS, YOU KNOW, A GROUP OF PEOPLE HAS SETTLED ACROSS THE VALLEY IN THE OLD TOWN CALLED HARROW! WELL, THERE'S A BOY FROM HARROW THAT ATTENDS MY SCHOOL...IT SEEMS THE REST OF THE TOWN DOESN'T BELIEVE IN SCHOOLS OR SCIENCE...OR ANY PROGRESS! THEY FEAR PROGRESS-- BECAUSE THEY CLAIM IT LED TO THE WAR!

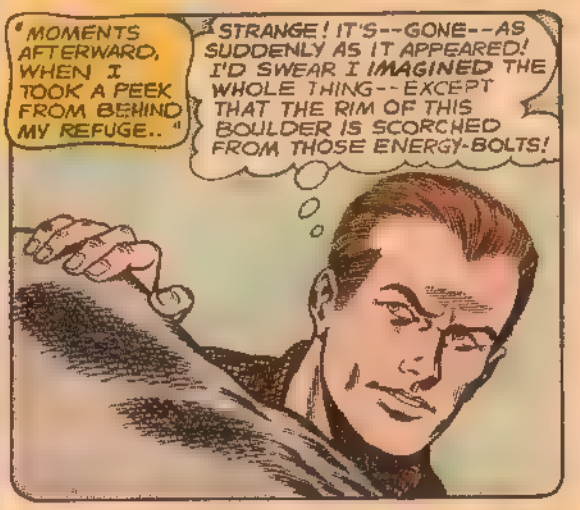
"SO FRED DROMER--HE'S THE BOY--HAS BEEN SNEAKING OFF TO DURVALE --TO ATTEND MY CLASSES . . ."

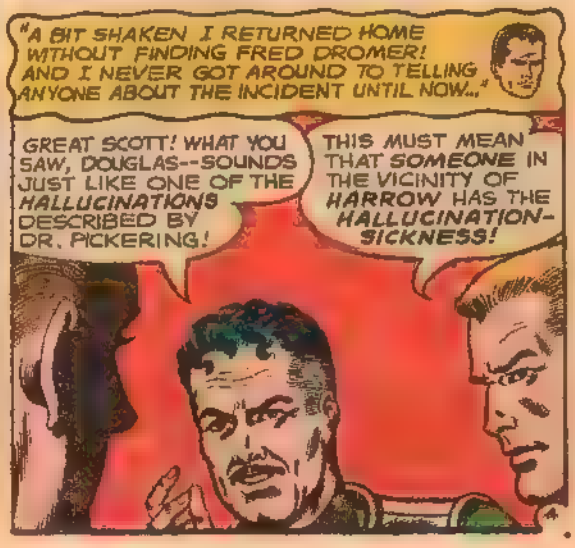
"WHEN HE DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR A FEW DAYS, I BECAME A BIT CONCERNED! I DECIDED TO VISIT HIS HOME TO FIND OUT IF THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG. I WAS NEAR HARROW WHEN IT HAPPENED..."

"SUDDENLY FROM A COTTAGE ON THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE THERE WAS A TERRIBLE SOUND, LIKE A SHRIEK! AND ALMOST SIMUTANEOUSLY I SAW BEFORE ME..."
AAA-EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
"I REMEMBER THINKING IN A FLASH OF A SECOND THAT I WAS HAVING AN HALLUCINATION!"

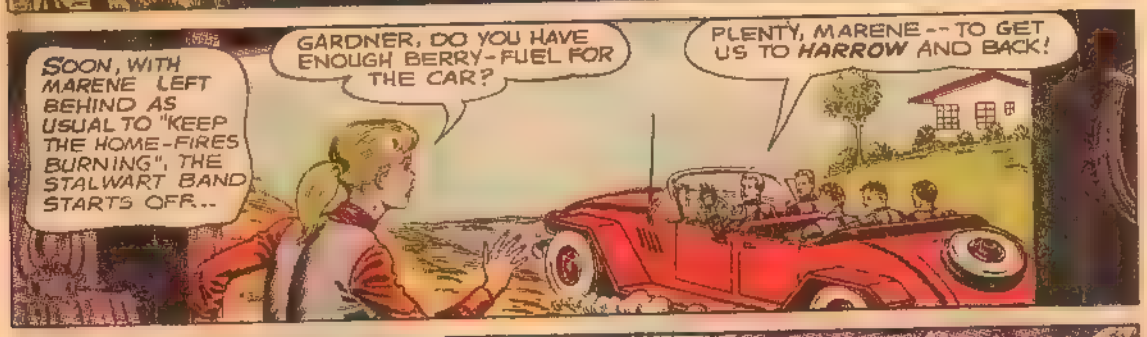

"IT SEEMED FILLED WITH A CRACKLING ENERGY, THAT IT RELEASED AT ME!"
ATTACKING ME! AND I DON'T HAVE MY ARMOR ON! GOT TO GET BEHIND COVER-- THIS BOULDER--

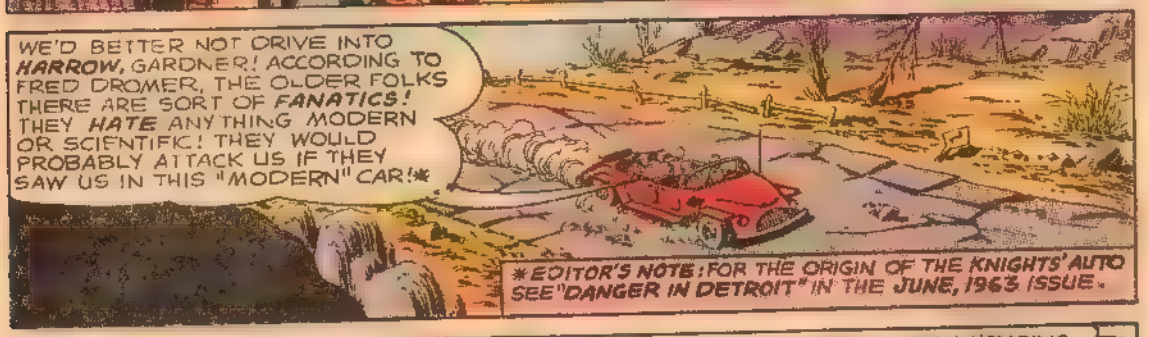

"I MADE IT JUST IN TIME..."
I CAN FEEL THE POWER OF THAT RADIATION! I'D HAVE BEEN A GONER IF IT HAD TOUCHED ME! AS IT IS, I'VE ONLY GOT A BREATHING SPELL--

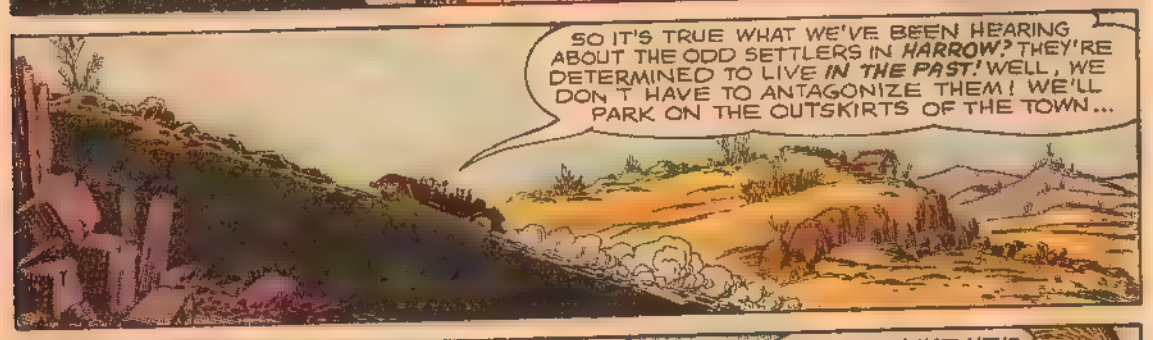

"MOMENTS AFTERWARD, WHEN I TOOK A PEEK FROM BEHIND MY REFUGE.."
STRANGE! IT'S--GONE--AS SUDDENLY AS IT APPEARED! I'D SWEAR I IMAGINED THE WHOLE THING--EXCEPT THAT THE RIM OF THIS BOULDER IS SCORCHED FROM THOSE ENERGY-BOLTS!

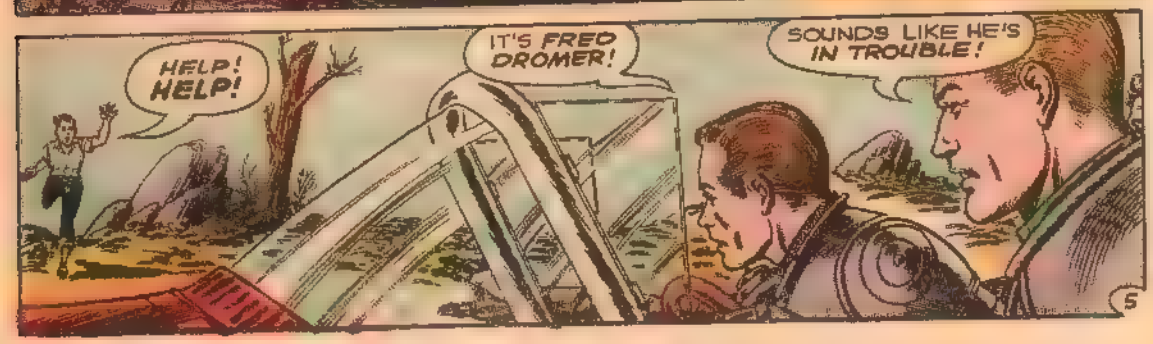

"A BIT SHAKEN I RETURNED HOME WITHOUT FINDING FRED DROMER! AND I NEVER GOT AROUND TO TELLING ANYONE ABOUT THE INCIDENT UNTIL NOW..."
GREAT SCOTT! WHAT YOU SAW, DOUGLAS--SOUNDS JUST LIKE ONE OF THE HALLUCINATIONS DESCRIBED BY DR. PICKERING!
THIS MUST MEAN THAT SOMEONE IN THE VICINITY OF HARROW HAS THE HALLUCINATION-SICKNESS!

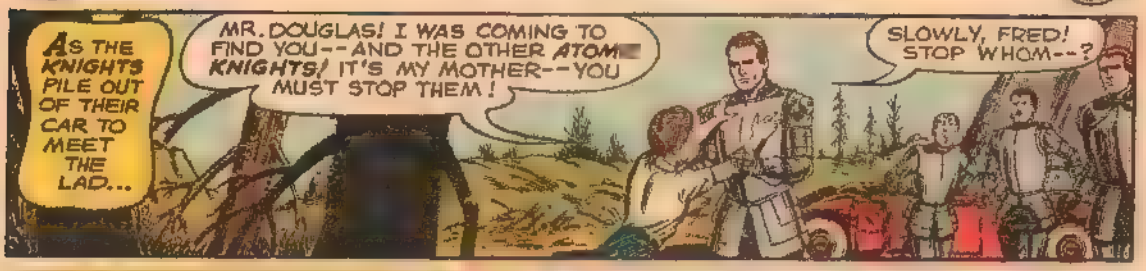
WE'D BETTER INVESTIGATE AT ONCE, GARDNER! PICKERING SAID THE ILLNESS CAN BE CURED IF CAUGHT IN TIME--BUT IF IT'S NOT CURED, TERRIBLE DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION CAN RESULT!
WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, KNIGHTS! LET'S GET OUR ARMOR ON--

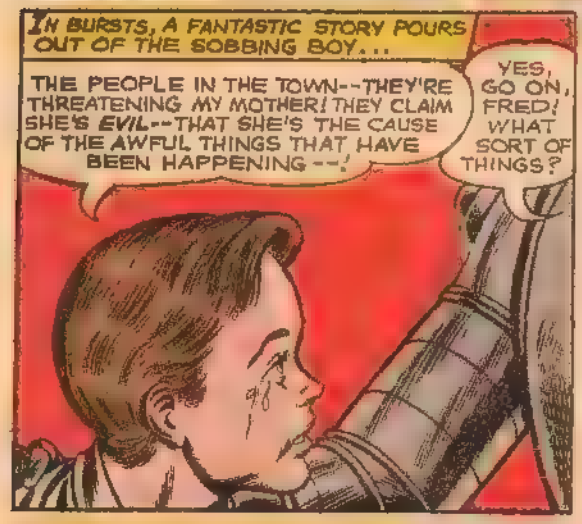

SOON, WITH MARENE LEFT BEHIND AS USUAL TO "KEEP THE HOME-FIRES BURNING", THE STALWART BAND STARTS OFF...
GARDNER, DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH BERRY-FUEL FOR THE CAR?
PLENTY, MARENE--TO GET US TO HARROW AND BACK!

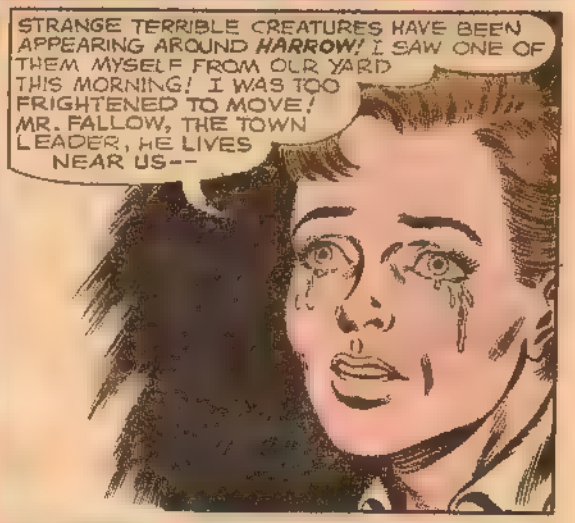

WE'D BETTER NOT DRIVE INTO HARROW, GARDNER! ACCORDING TO FRED DROMER, THE OLDER FOLKS THERE ARE SORT OF FANATICS! THEY HATE ANYTHING MODERN OR SCIENTIFIC! THEY WOULD PROBABLY ATTACK US IF THEY SAW US IN THIS "MODERN" CAR!*
*EDITOR'S NOTE: FOR THE ORIGIN OF THE KNIGHTS' AUTO SEE "DANGER IN DETROIT" IN THE JUNE, 1963 ISSUE.

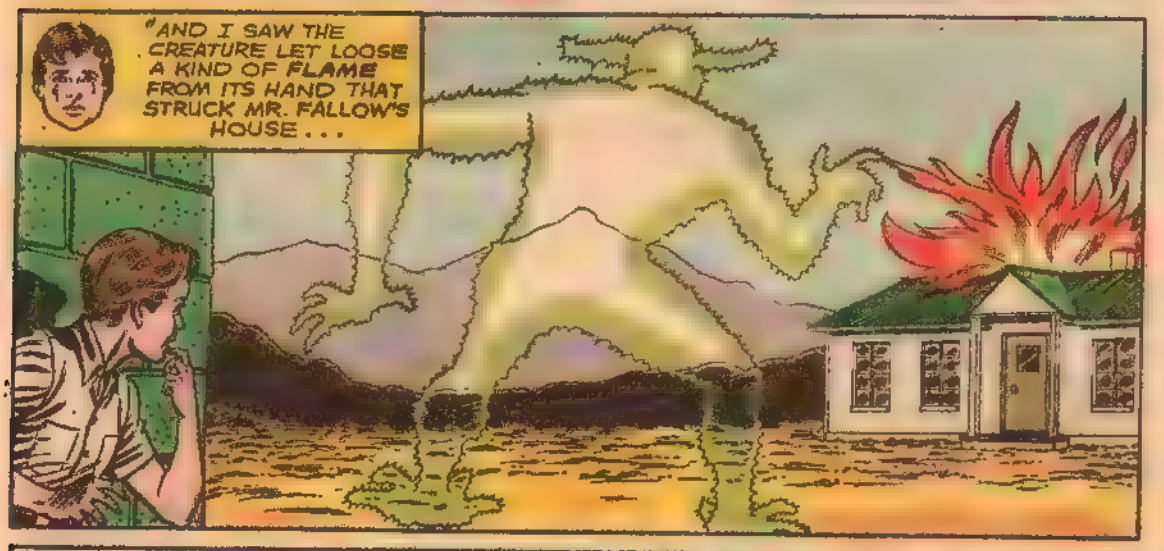

SO IT'S TRUE WHAT WE'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT THE ODD SETTLERS IN HARROW? THEY'RE DETERMINED TO LIVE IN THE PAST! WELL, WE DON'T HAVE TO ANTAGONIZE THEM! WE'LL PARK ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN...


HELP! HELP!
IT'S FRED DROMER!
SOUNDS LIKE HE'S IN TROUBLE!

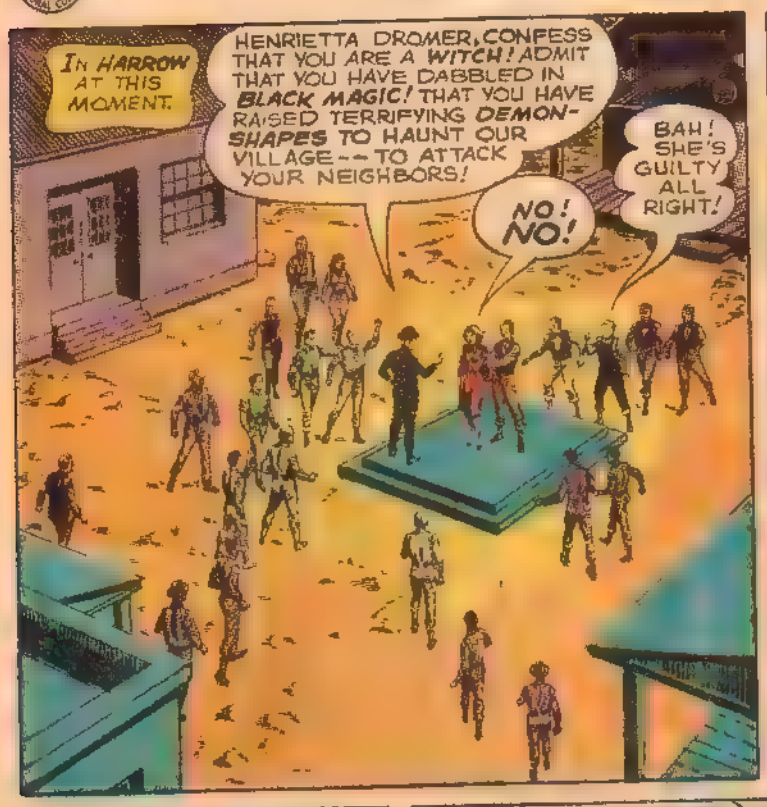

AS THE KNIGHTS PILE OUT OF THEIR CAR TO MEET THE LAD...
MR. DOUGLAS! I WAS COMING TO FIND YOU--AND THE OTHER ATOM KNIGHTS! IT'S MY MOTHER--YOU MUST STOP THEM!
SLOWLY, FRED! STOP WHOM--?


IN BURSTS, A FANTASTIC STORY POURS OUT OF THE SOBBING BOY...
THE PEOPLE IN THE TOWN--THEY'RE THREATENING MY MOTHER! THEY CLAIM SHE'S EVIL--THAT SHE'S THE CAUSE OF THE AWFUL THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN HAPPENING--!
YES, GO ON, FRED! WHAT SORT OF THINGS?

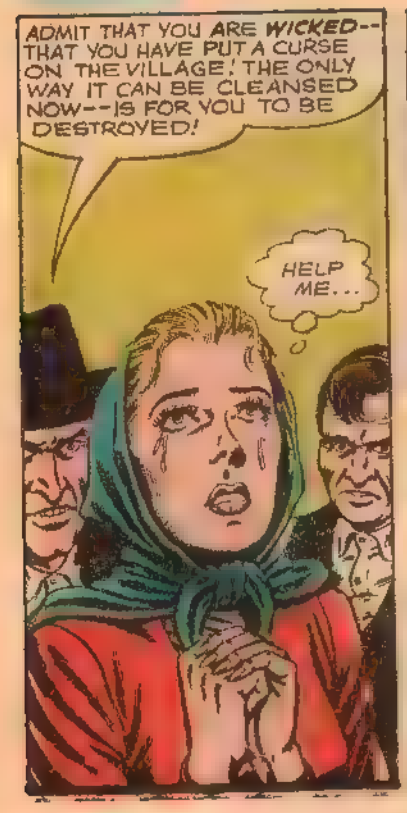

STRANGE TERRIBLE CREATURES HAVE BEEN APPEARING AROUND HARROW! I SAW ONE OF THEM MYSELF FROM OUR YARD THIS MORNING! I WAS TOO FRIGHTENED TO MOVE! MR. FALLOW, THE TOWN LEADER, HE LIVES NEAR US--

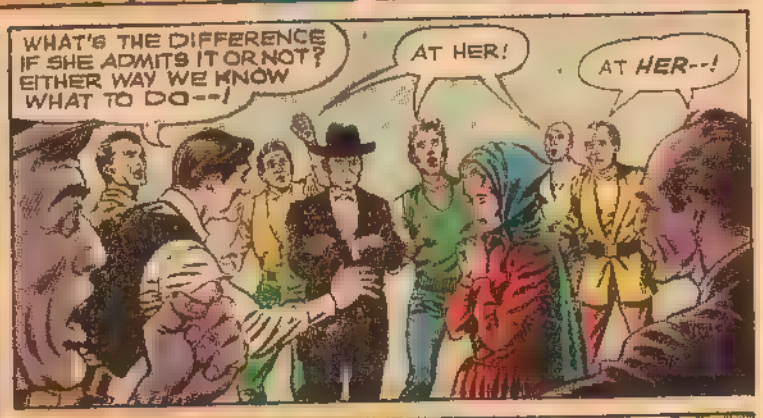

"AND I SAW THE CREATURE LET LOOSE A KIND OF FLAME FROM ITS HAND THAT STRUCK MR. FALLOW'S HOUSE...

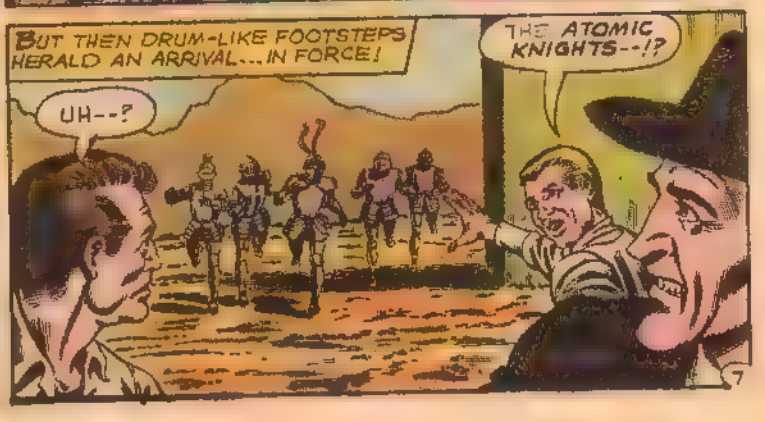
LUCKILY NO ONE WAS HOME--SO NO ONE WAS HURT! BUT THE HOUSE BURNED TO THE GROUND! AFTERWARD MR. FALLOW AND OTHERS IN THE TOWN CAME AND TOOK AWAY MY MOTHER! THEY CLAIM SHE'S TO BLAME! PLEASE HELP HER--SHE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG--!
ALL RIGHT, KNIGHTS! WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH! LET'S GO!

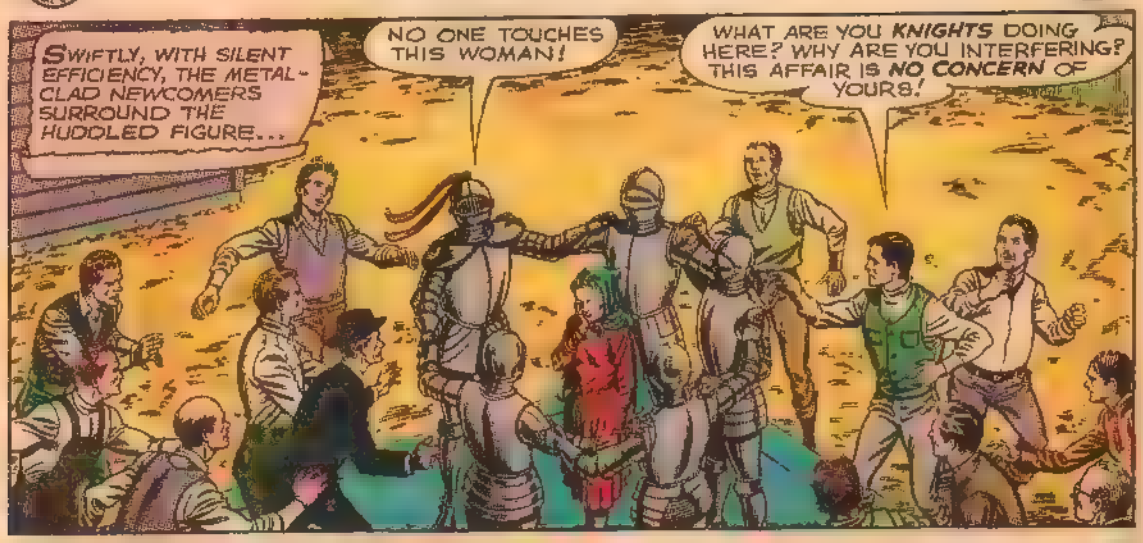

IN HARROW AT THIS MOMENT.
HENRIETTA DROMER, CONFESS THAT YOU ARE A WITCH! ADMIT THAT YOU HAVE DABBLED IN BLACK MAGIC! THAT YOU HAVE RAISED TERRIFYING DEMON-SHAPES TO HAUNT OUR VILLAGE--TO ATTACK YOUR NEIGHBORS!
NO! NO!
BAH! SHE'S GUILTY ALL RIGHT!

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY USED TO DO WITH WITCHES IN THE OLD DAYS! THEY PUT THEM TO DEATH!
I'VE DONE NOTHING --NOTHING!


ADMIT THAT YOU ARE WICKED--THAT YOU HAVE PUT A CURSE ON THE VILLAGE! THE ONLY WAY IT CAN BE CLEANSED NOW--IS FOR YOU TO BE DESTROYED!
HELP ME...

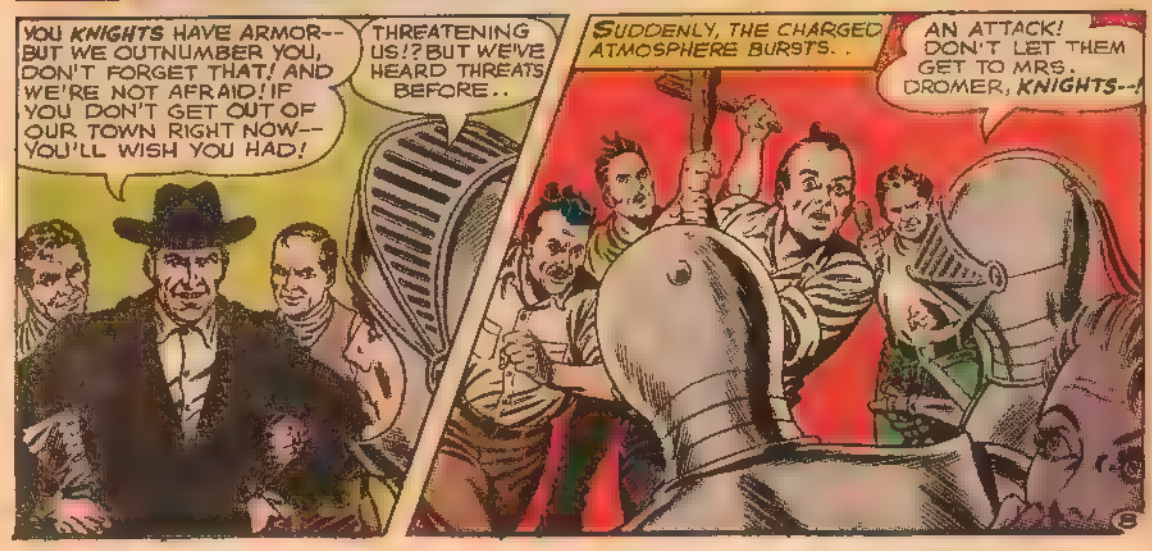

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IF SHE ADMITS IT OR NOT? EITHER WAY WE KNOW WHAT TO DO--!
AT HER!
AT HER--!


BUT THEN DRUM-LIKE FOOTSTEPS HERALD AN ARRIVAL...IN FORCE!
UH--?
THE ATOMIC KNIGHTS--!?


SWIFTLY, WITH SILENT EFFICIENCY, THE METAL-CLAD NEWCOMERS SURROUND THE HUDDLED FIGURE...
NO ONE TOUCHES THIS WOMAN!
WHAT ARE YOU KNIGHTS DOING HERE? WHY ARE YOU INTERFERING? THIS AFFAIR IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS!

THAT WOMAN IS A WITCH! SHE MUST BE PUNISHED!
WITCH!? THIS IS THE LATE 20TH CENTURY-- AND YOU TALK OF WITCHES! THAT'S WHAT COMES FROM LIVING IN THE PAST! WE'VE HEARD OF YOU PEOPLE IN HARROW...

YOU'RE AGAINST SCIENCE-- AGAINST PROGRESS! YOU REFUSE EVEN TO HAVE A SCHOOL HERE! AND AS A RESULT YOU HAVE ALL SUNK INTO SUPERSTITION! CAN'T YOU SEE? THIS WOMAN IS INNOCENT!
WE SEE NOTHING OF THE SORT! LISTEN--


YOU KNIGHTS HAVE ARMOR-- BUT WE OUTNUMBER YOU, DON'T FORGET THAT! AND WE'RE NOT AFRAID! IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF OUR TOWN RIGHT NOW-- YOU'LL WISH YOU HAD!
THREATENING US!? BUT WE'VE HEARD THREATS BEFORE..
SUDDENLY, THE CHARGED ATMOSPHERE BURSTS..
AN ATTACK! DON'T LET THEM GET TO MRS. DROMER, KNIGHTS--!

FORCED TO FIGHT THE ATOMIC KNIGHTS SET ABOUT IT WITH COOL FURY

SOMEHOW WE'VE GOT TO KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO THESE PEOPLE!

SO YOU'RE GOING TO STONE A DEFENSELESS WOMAN? IF I HAD YOU IN MY CLASS-ROOM I'D TEACH YOU BETTER!

LET 'EM HAVE IT, HOLLIS!

AS THE BURLY LEADER FALLOW AND GARDNER COME TO GRIPS...

KNOCK THEM OFF THEIR FEET! WITH THEIR HEAVY ARMOR THEY'LL BE FINISHED--THEY'LL NEVER GET UP!

THAT'S A SMART IDEA, FALLOW--

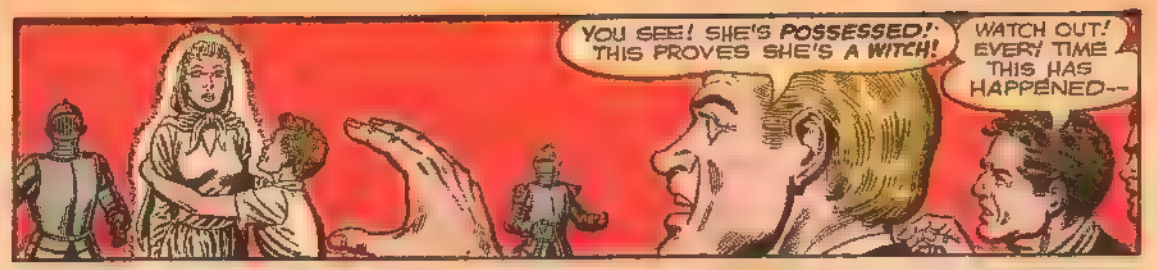
--BUT IT WON'T WORK!

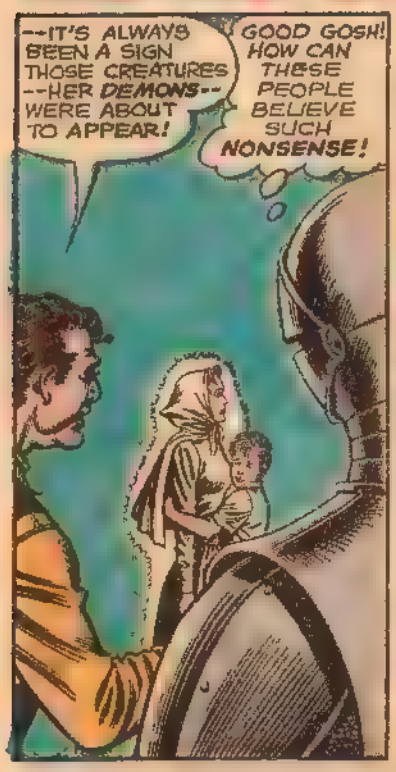
THEN, ALL THE BATTLERS ON BOTH SIDES ARE SUDDENLY TRANSFIXED BY A HAIR-RAISING OCCURRENCE...

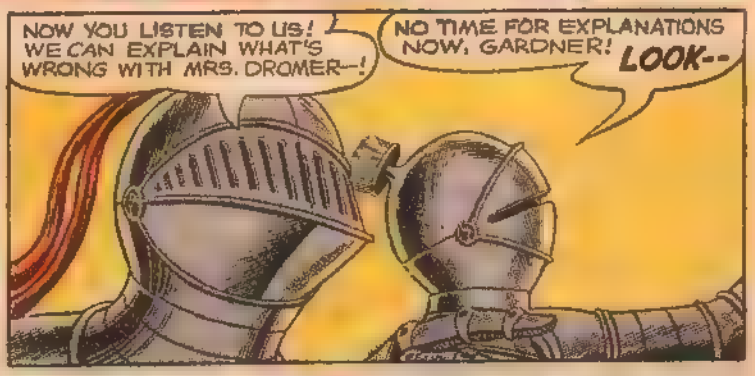
AAAEEEEEEE!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO MRS. DROMER! SHE'S STIFFENING--AS IF GOING INTO A TRANCE!

MOTHER! MOTHER!







STORY CONTINUES ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING!

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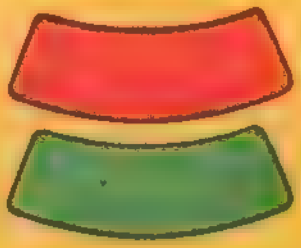
Which of the two is larger?

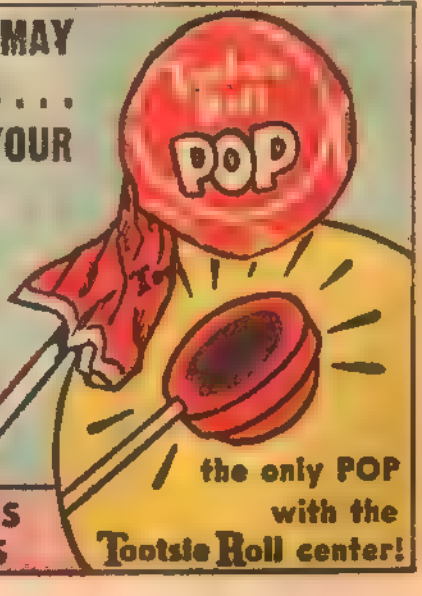


Answer

MEASURE THEM AND YOU WILL FIND . . .
THEY ARE BOTH THE SAME SIZE!

YOUR EYES MAY PLAY TRICKS . . . BUT NOT YOUR TASTE!

buy a Tootsie Roll POP



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THREAT OF THE WITCH-WOMAN

PART 2

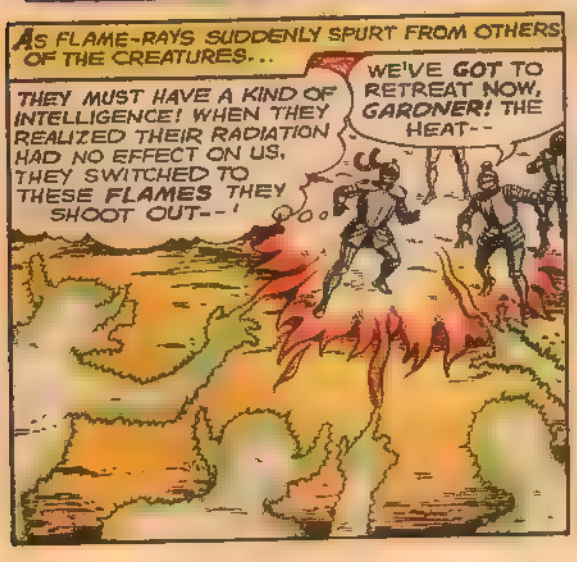
UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF HER HALLUCINATION-SICKNESS, MRS DROMER'S RADIATION-ACTIVATED BRAIN HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO WEIRD, FANTASTIC IMAGES... WHICH POSSESS A FLEETING BUT HATE-FILLED LIFE OF THEIR OWN!

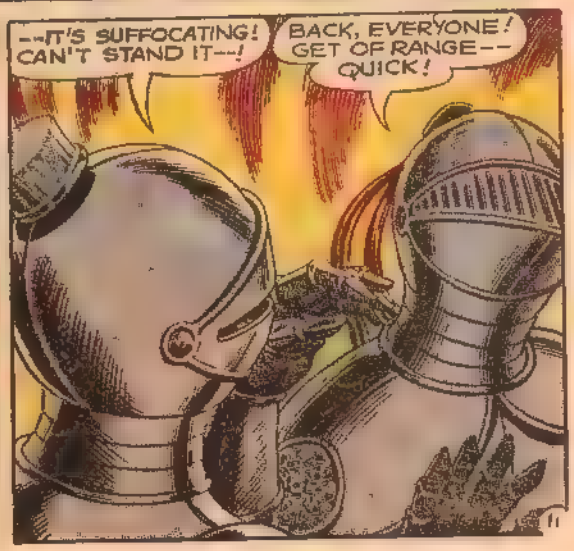
NEVER BEFORE HAVE THE ATOMIC KNIGHTS BEEN UP AGAINST SUCH FORMIDABLE FOES...

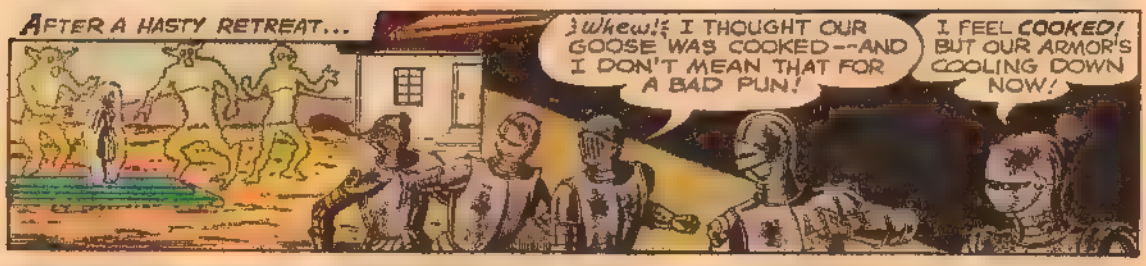
STAND YOUR GROUNDS, KNIGHTS!

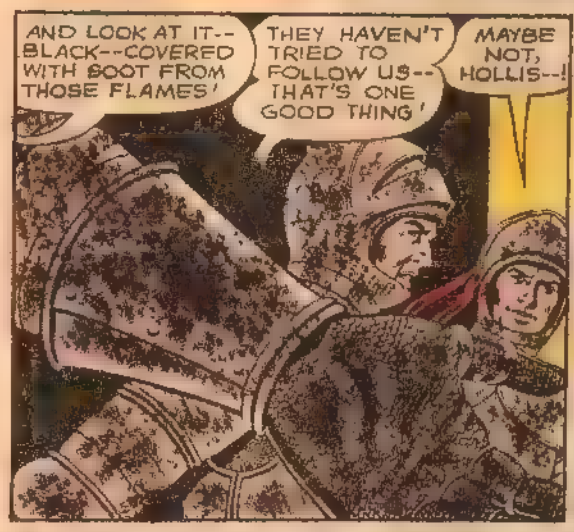
OUR ARMOR PROTECTS US AGAINST THE RADIATION POURING OUT OF THEM--!

THIS CREEP IS USING A FLAME-THROWER ON ME! MY ARMOR IS HEATING UP! IT'S NOT RESISTANT TO HEAT--!

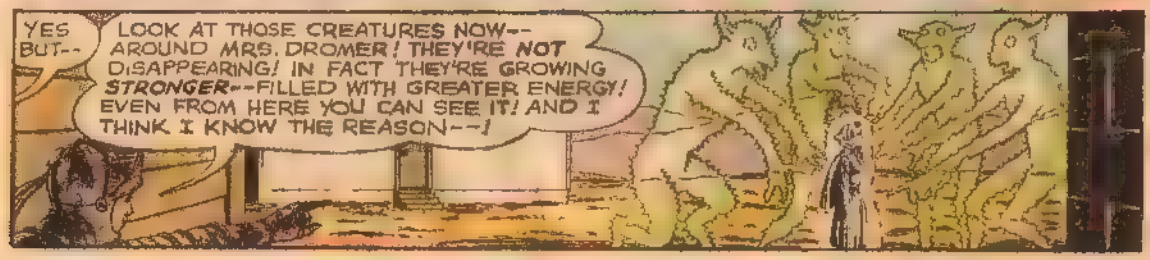


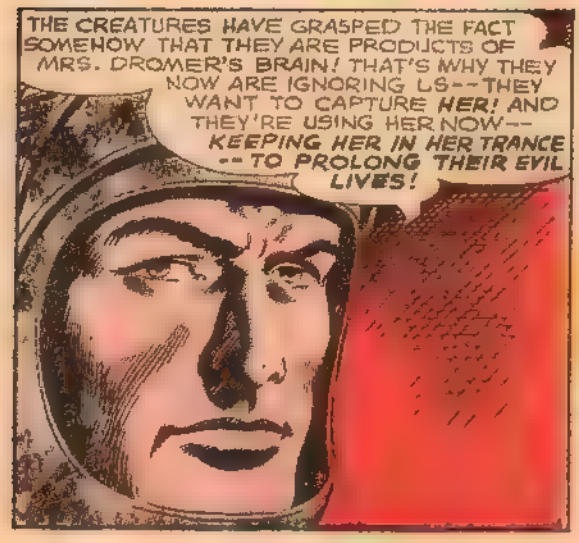



AFTER A HASTY RETREAT...
Whew!! I THOUGHT OUR GOOSE WAS COOKED--AND I DON'T MEAN THAT FOR A BAD PUN!
I FEEL COOKED! BUT OUR ARMOR'S COOLING DOWN NOW!

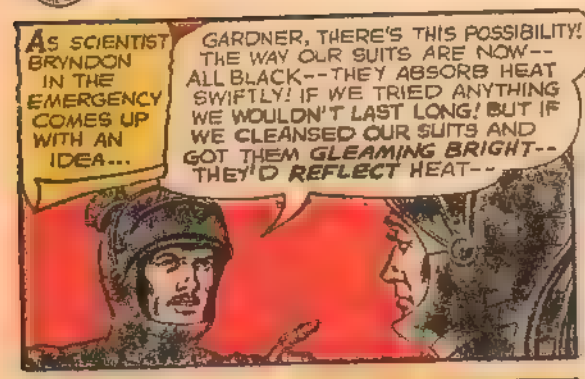

AND LOOK AT IT--BLACK--COVERED WITH SOOT FROM THOSE FLAMES!
THEY HAVEN'T TRIED TO FOLLOW US--THAT'S ONE GOOD THING!
MAYBE NOT, HOLLIS--!

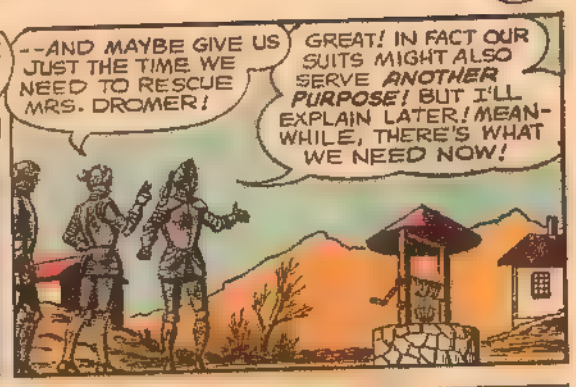
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GARDNER?
ACCORDING TO DR. PICKERING, THE IMAGES CONNECTED WITH THE HALLUCINATION-SICKNESS ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO LAST A FEW MINUTES AT MOST! ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

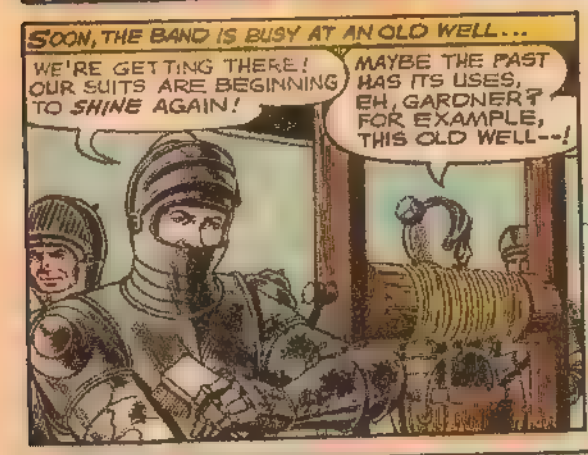

YES BUT--
LOOK AT THOSE CREATURES NOW--AROUND MRS. DROMER! THEY'RE NOT DISAPPEARING! IN FACT THEY'RE GROWING STRONGER--FILLED WITH GREATER ENERGY! EVEN FROM HERE YOU CAN SEE IT! AND I THINK I KNOW THE REASON--!

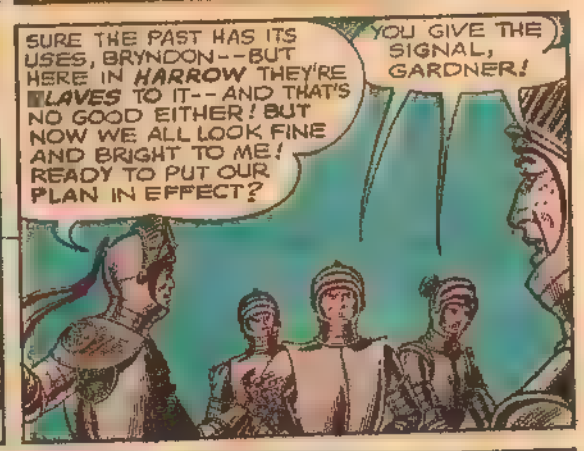

THE CREATURES HAVE GRASPED THE FACT SOMEHOW THAT THEY ARE PRODUCTS OF MRS. DROMER'S BRAIN! THAT'S WHY THEY NOW ARE IGNORING US--THEY WANT TO CAPTURE HER! AND THEY'RE USING HER NOW--KEEPING HER IN HER TRANCE--TO PROLONG THEIR EVIL LIVES!

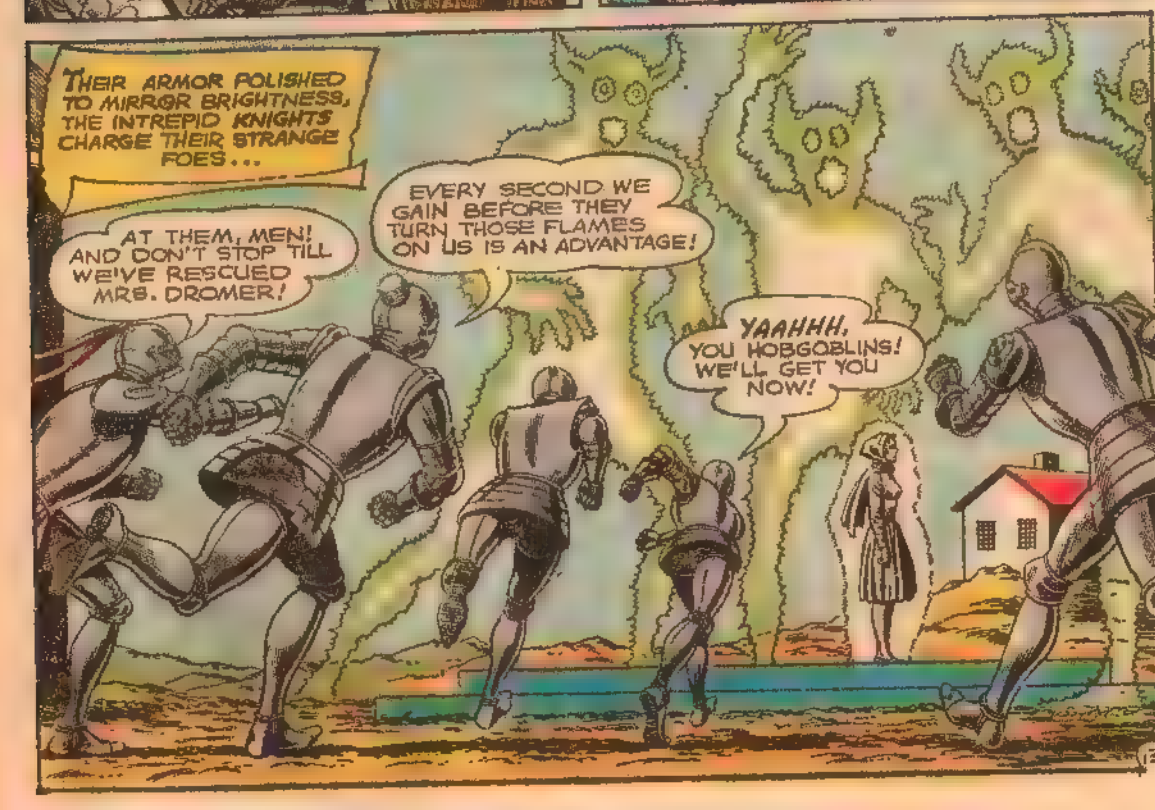
Whew!! I'LL BET YOU'RE RIGHT, GARDNER! IT FITS! BUT WHAT CAN WE DO? HOW CAN WE COMBAT THOSE CREATURES?
FIRST OFF--WE'VE GOT TO GET MRS. DROMER AWAY FROM THEM! I DON'T KNOW HOW--BUT WE'VE GOT TO! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE--TO WEAKEN THEM!


AS SCIENTIST BRYNDON IN THE EMERGENCY COMES UP WITH AN IDEA...
GARDNER, THERE'S THIS POSSIBILITY! THE WAY OUR SUITS ARE NOW--ALL BLACK--THEY ABSORB HEAT SWIFTLY! IF WE TRIED ANYTHING WE WOULDN'T LAST LONG! BUT IF WE CLEANSED OUR SUITS AND GOT THEM GLEAMING BRIGHT--THEY'D REFLECT HEAT--

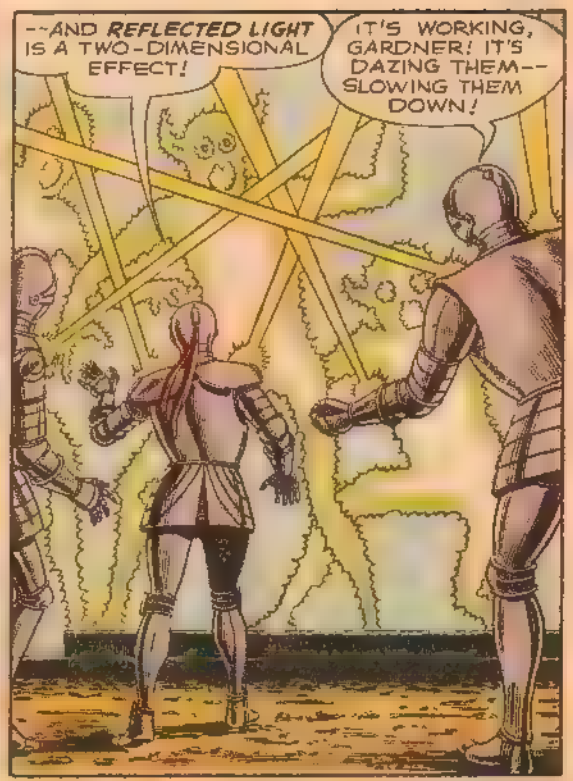

--AND MAYBE GIVE US JUST THE TIME WE NEED TO RESCUE MRS. DROMER!
GREAT! IN FACT OUR SUITS MIGHT ALSO SERVE ANOTHER PURPOSE! BUT I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! MEANWHILE, THERE'S WHAT WE NEED NOW!

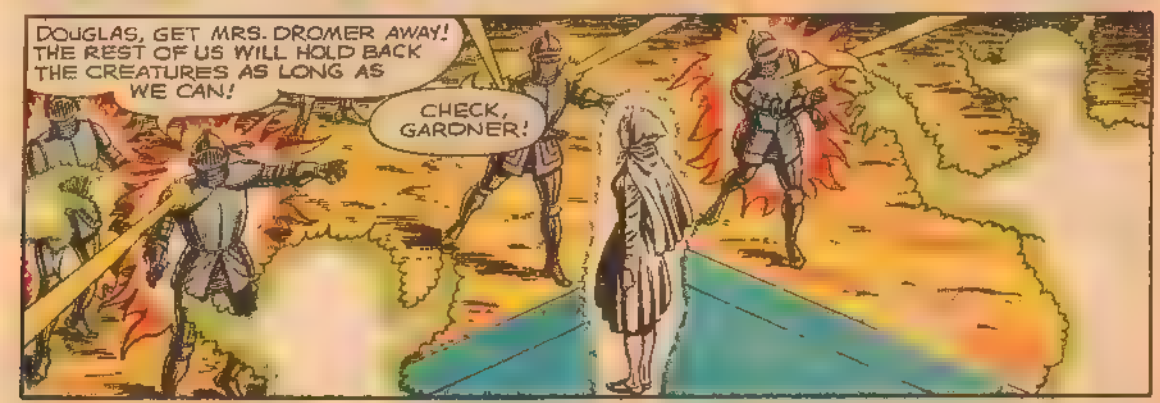

SOON, THE BAND IS BUSY AT AN OLD WELL...
WE'RE GETTING THERE! OUR SUITS ARE BEGINNING TO SHINE AGAIN!
MAYBE THE PAST HAS ITS USES, EH, GARDNER? FOR EXAMPLE, THIS OLD WELL--!

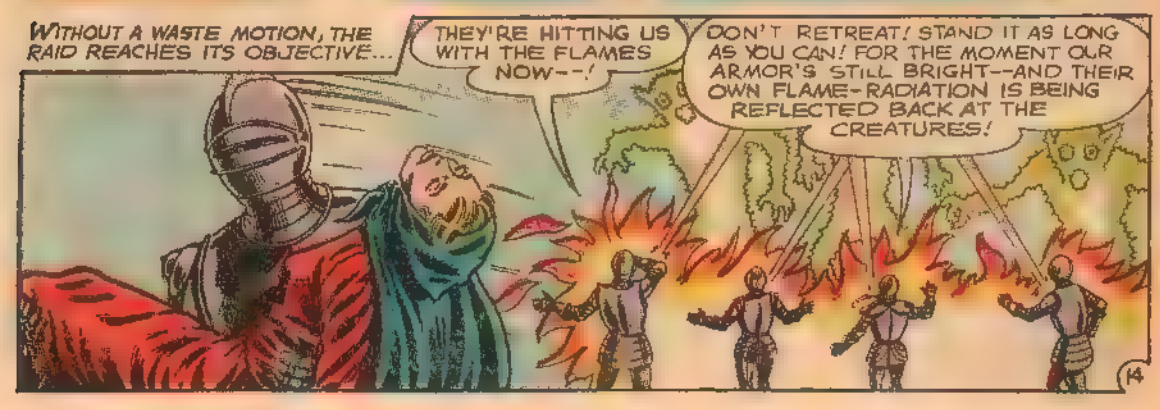

SURE THE PAST HAS ITS USES, BRYNDON--BUT HERE IN HARROW THEY'RE SLAVES TO IT--AND THAT'S NO GOOD EITHER! BUT NOW WE ALL LOOK FINE AND BRIGHT TO ME! READY TO PUT OUR PLAN IN EFFECT?
YOU GIVE THE SIGNAL, GARDNER!

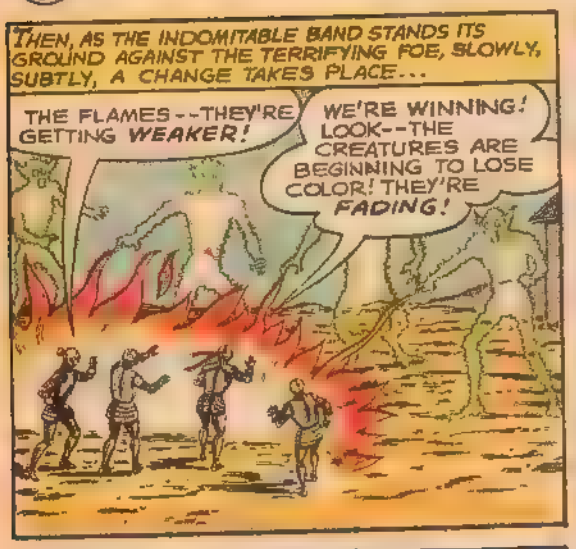

THEIR ARMOR POLISHED TO MIRROR BRIGHTNESS, THE INTREPID KNIGHTS CHARGE THEIR STRANGE FOES...
AT THEM, MEN! AND DON'T STOP TILL WE'VE RESCUED MRS. DROMER!
EVERY SECOND WE GAIN BEFORE THEY TURN THOSE FLAMES ON US IS AN ADVANTAGE!
YAAHHH, YOU HOBGOBLINS! WE'LL GET YOU NOW!

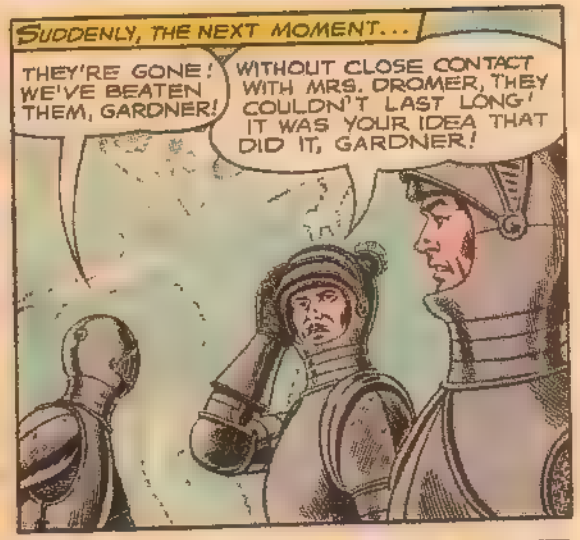
FROM THE BRILLIANT ARMOR, SHAFTS OF SUNLIGHT ARE REFLECTED WITH DAZZLING EFFECT AS THE KNIGHTS PLUNGE ON...
AHH--JUST AS I FIGURED! OUR ARMOR IS ACTING LIKE A LOT OF MIRRORS! THE REFLECTED LIGHT IS STABBING UP AT THE CREATURES--AND THAT MAY BE ONE WAY TO FIGHT THEM! AFTER ALL--THEY ARE TWO-DIMENSIONAL BEINGS--

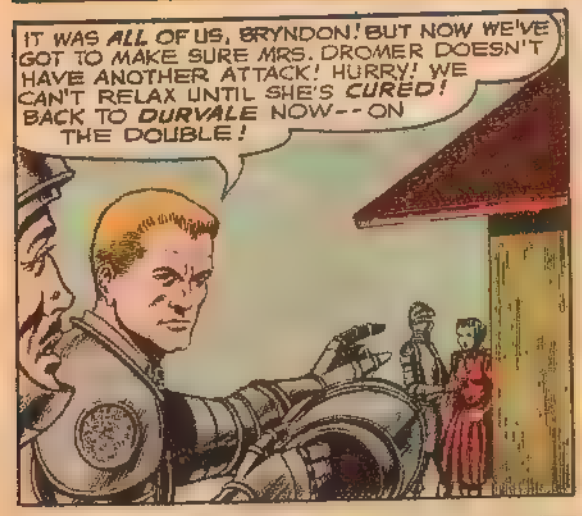

--AND REFLECTED LIGHT IS A TWO-DIMENSIONAL EFFECT!
IT'S WORKING, GARDNER! IT'S DAZING THEM--SLOWING THEM DOWN!

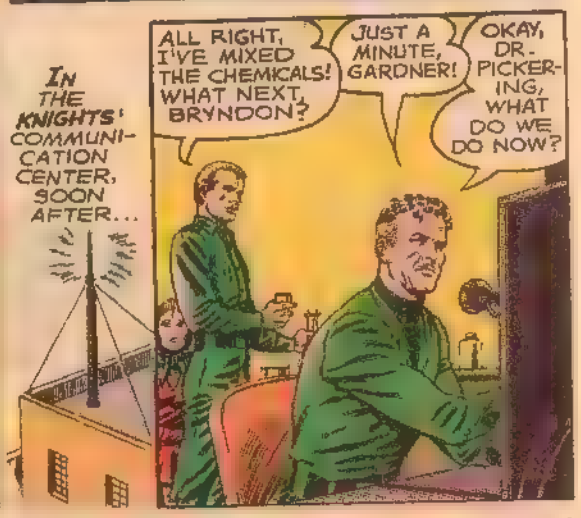

DOUGLAS, GET MRS. DROMER AWAY! THE REST OF US WILL HOLD BACK THE CREATURES AS LONG AS WE CAN!
CHECK, GARDNER!

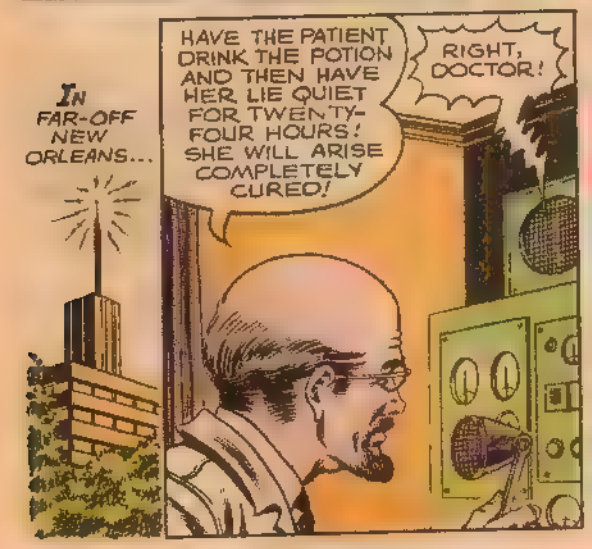

WITHOUT A WASTE MOTION, THE RAID REACHES ITS OBJECTIVE...
THEY'RE HITTING US WITH THE FLAMES NOW--!
DON'T RETREAT! STAND IT AS LONG AS YOU CAN! FOR THE MOMENT OUR ARMOR'S STILL BRIGHT--AND THEIR OWN FLAME-RADIATION IS BEING REFLECTED BACK AT THE CREATURES!

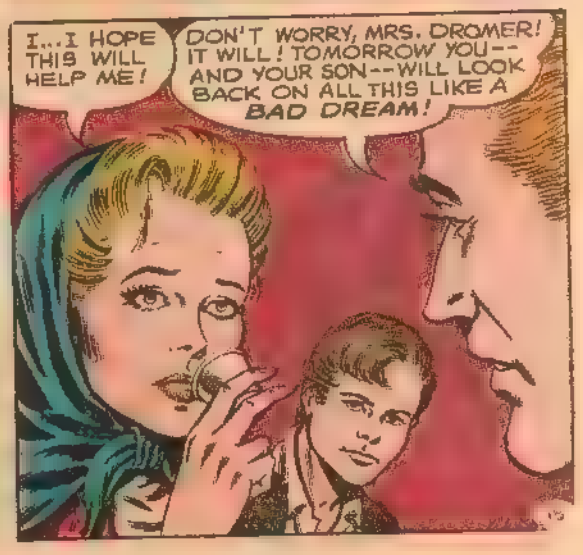

THEN, AS THE INDOMITABLE BAND STANDS ITS GROUND AGAINST THE TERRIFYING FOE, SLOWLY, SUBTLY, A CHANGE TAKES PLACE...
THE FLAMES--THEY'RE GETTING WEAKER!
WE'RE WINNING! LOOK--THE CREATURES ARE BEGINNING TO LOSE COLOR! THEY'RE FADING!

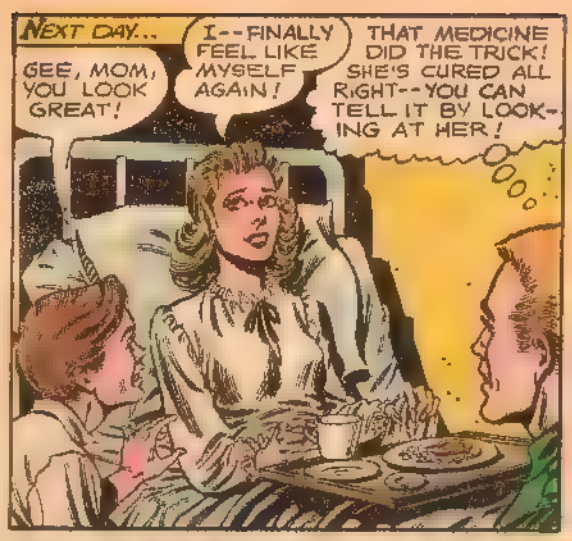

SUDDENLY, THE NEXT MOMENT...
THEY'RE GONE! WE'VE BEATEN THEM, GARDNER!
WITHOUT CLOSE CONTACT WITH MRS. DROMER, THEY COULDN'T LAST LONG! IT WAS YOUR IDEA THAT DID IT, GARDNER!

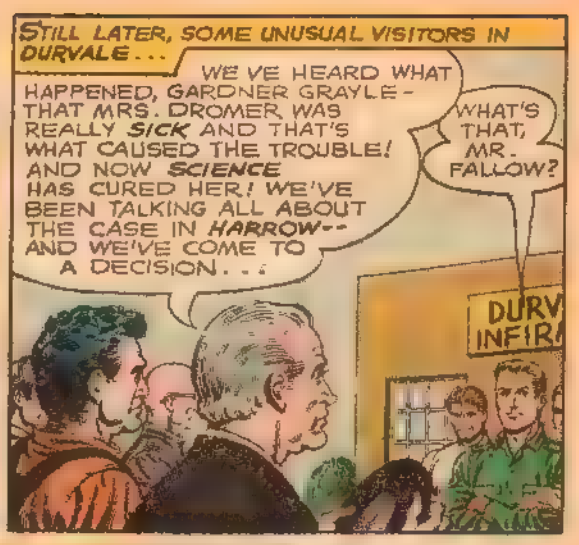

IT WAS ALL OF US, BRYNDON! BUT NOW WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE MRS. DROMER DOESN'T HAVE ANOTHER ATTACK! HURRY! WE CAN'T RELAX UNTIL SHE'S CURED! BACK TO DURVALE NOW--ON THE DOUBLE!

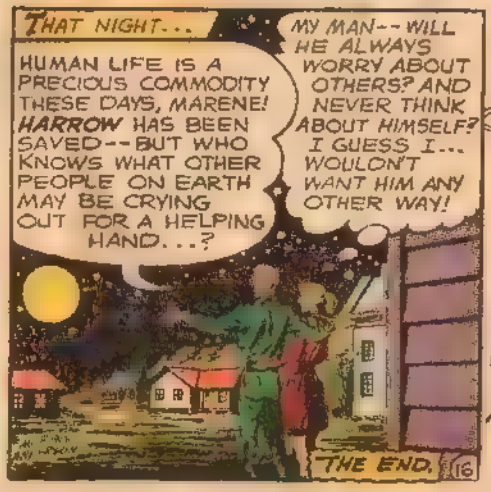

IN THE KNIGHTS' COMMUNICATION CENTER, SOON AFTER...
ALL RIGHT, I'VE MIXED THE CHEMICALS! WHAT NEXT, BRYNDON?
JUST A MINUTE, GARDNER!
OKAY, DR. PICKERING, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?


IN FAR-OFF NEW ORLEANS...
HAVE THE PATIENT DRINK THE POTION AND THEN HAVE HER LIE QUIET FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! SHE WILL ARISE COMPLETELY CURED!
RIGHT, DOCTOR!


I...I HOPE THIS WILL HELP ME!
DON'T WORRY, MRS. DROMER! IT WILL! TOMORROW YOU--AND YOUR SON--WILL LOOK BACK ON ALL THIS LIKE A BAD DREAM!







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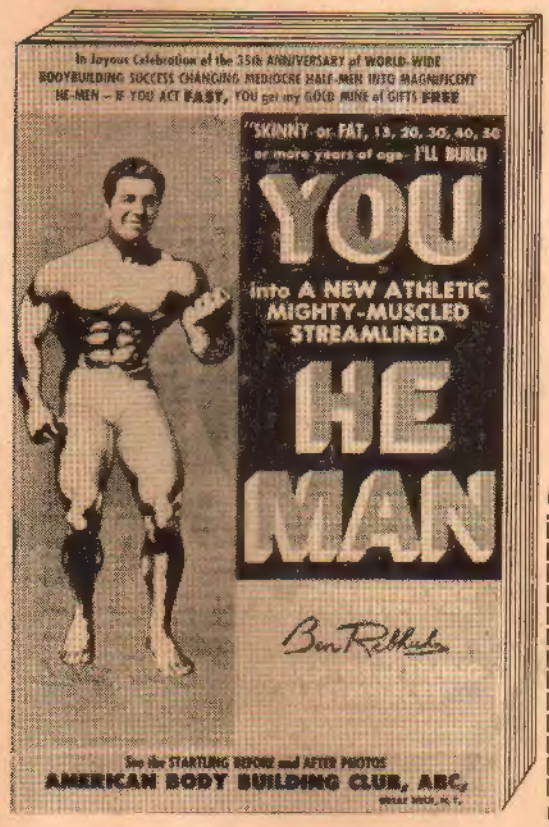

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